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God's Truth About the Home

541-B

Series: The Beatitudes

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Note: Russell wrote each of these lessons in a manner that would enable him to clearly communicate them to his weekly class. The grammar or punctuation you encounter may not be technically perfect, but you will certainly “hear” his unique gift for making the message applicable to the common man in everyday situations.

It’s been said of him that he was really a writer who read his stuff. And that’s a very accurate statement!

May you be richly blessed as you “hear” as you read.

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In this lesson, we are going to continue to look at the foundational lies that Satan wants the world to believe. The ideals and morals of the world are rapidly changing, and what the world is determining or basing its changes on are these foundational lies that Satan tells. The sad part is that many of us as Christians are falling for them, too. We are falling prey to the philosophy that develops from these Satanic lies. In the last lesson, I made a comment about the openness of Satan's attack in these latter days. Rather than being underground and subtle as he once was, today, Satan has come up front, so to speak, with his lies. He is not in hiding any more.

I found two such illustrations of this in the newspaper. The first was an article that more than one group is threatening to sue certain local and federal governments for allowing the Pope to preach, teach and speak on public soil.

On an even sadder note, local theaters are showing a movie titled, "The Life of Brian." An article in Newsweek Magazine said this about the film,

A child is born in Bethlehem, and three wise men offer his mother gold, frankincense and myrrh. The mother grabs the gold and frankincense but gives back the myrrh. Is there something wrong with this story? Quite. The wise men have stumbled onto the wrong manger. What they have witnessed is the birth of Brian Cohen who will soon grow up to be the star of Monty Python's movie, 'The Life of Brian', which is not the greatest story ever told, but is certainly one of the more irreverent.

The Holy Land, in the gospel according to Python, is a profit ridden madhouse where radical sects, like the Judean People's Front bicker with the People's Front of Judea. They plot terrorist raids on the Romans. Stoning blasphemers seems to be the national sport with merchants hawking rocks at bargain prices. The Sermon on the Mount is considered from the vantage point of listeners who

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can barely make out the words. "Blessed are the cheese makers." They say, "What does that mean?"

The righteous followers of Brian, a most inadvertent messiah, picks up a lost sandal of his and read it as a sign from God that they should gather shoes in abundance. Needless to say, there is a crucifixion scene at the end, but one that owes much to Busby Berkley as to the Bible. "The Life of Brian" fortunately skips along at such a frenzy that the lulls are barely noticed. Though the pious will blanch, Python maniacs will find this movie a treasure trove of unborn-again humor.

The ads for this movie had a take-off of a popular bumper sticker that says, "Honk, If You Love Brian." To some of you, at first glance, this may look like a clever satire of some type, but before you buy that lie, let me remind you that the person being ridiculed in this film is not even a famous preacher or even the Pope, but the person being laughed at is God in the form of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God, Himself, who died Himself, to bring us to Himself, is being made fun of in this film.

Now I realize that we don't want to be alarmists, and I don't think that we need to pick at the theater, but I do want to encourage you not to just grin and bear it, but do these things. Don't go to the movie, please. Don't go for the sake of education, because we don't need to witness such blasphemy in order to understand it.

Lie 1- In the last lesson, we saw how Satan's first stage of attack on morality was to deceive us into imagining that morality changes with the times. In other words, it is relative. In that lesson, we discovered and reminded ourselves that this is a lie. Morality is an absolute. It is founded on the character of the holiness of God. It is recorded in the permanence of the Word of God. God does not change, hence His Word does not change. Therefore, God's positions on homosexuality, stealing, lying, pornography and adultery are exactly what the Scripture says they are. These absolutes are crystal clear.

Lie 2- We also saw in the last lesson that Satan's next objective is to attack God's picture book of His relationship to man which is marriage. He can do that because if morality is relative, then sex outside of marriage becomes an acceptable alternative. As we saw in the last lesson, there is a deeper objective in Satan's mind

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in that he wants to destroy the spiritual portrait that marital purity proclaims. If man can find physical fulfillment without the commitment of marriage, it is saying that man can find spiritual fulfillment without committing his life to Jesus Christ.

Lie 3- Satan goes on to build another lie on top of that. The lie says that if marriage is not necessary, then marriage is not binding so therefore, divorce is a reasonable alternative or a solution or a way out. We see this in a study of Matthew 19 that outlines at least 8 basic principles of marriage that don't get into doctrinal differences, but are basic spiritual principles that I hope all of you will agree with. God is basically saying that marriage portrays His relationship with Israel and Christ's relationship with the church. It was designed to be permanent and to show forth His patience and long-suffering. It was designed to show forth His love to those who were without merit. To cheapen this permanency is to deny the security of the believer in Jesus Christ.

In this lesson, we come to the next lie of Satan that builds on the falsehood of the last three.

Lie 4- If morality is relative, marriage nonessential, and marriage not permanent, then the home, as we know it, is unnecessary and outmoded as the center of society.

Satan has launched a full-scale offensive to take the husband out of the home as the authority and, if possible, by divorce to take him out of the home altogether. This then takes the wife out of the home and places her in the marketplace. This then takes the children out of the home to day care centers, nurseries or other centrally controlled, non-Christian substitutes for parenthood. Satan is succeeding in this.

I want to share with you some excerpts from a tape by John MacArthur on "The Year of the Child." The year 1979 was designated the Year of the Child. This sounds exciting, because we certainly need to be concerned about our children, but we need to know the origin of it and what it means. Its origin is a 1976 declaration of the United Nations that is called The Rights of the Child. This declaration proclaimed that 1979 would be the Year of the Child. This is connected with the IWY which is the International Women's Year. The root came from a communist women's group to use as their authority a quarterly called "The Women of the World." This is published in Poland, East Berlin and Czechoslovakia. The philosophy is not only God-less but also anti-God.

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The goal of the Year of the Child was to remove children from the authority and influence of the traditional home, as we know it, and place them under government controlled influences. These grant children freedom to make their own choices concerning religion, morals, and values, as they put it, "apart from the pressures of parental authority." Their avowed purpose was to flood the media using whatever tools available such as situation comedies and so forth, to restructure our thinking on family roles and values.

Here are some of their stated objectives:

1- Children are to be liberated from traditional morals and values. The reasoning is, "The real solution requires fundamental change in the value commitments and the actions of the persons who control the public and private sector of our common lives, parents." Part of the primary program is to set up a day care program that takes children out of the home at the age of 6 months and leaves them in the program until they are 6 years old when they automatically go into school. This will give them over 8,000 hours in which they can teach values, fears, beliefs and behaviors. Gloria Steinam said, "We will, I hope, by the year 2000, raise our children to believe in the human potential rather than God." Does this sound familiar?

2- Children should be liberated from parental authority. "We recommend that laws dealing with the rights of parents be re-examined when they infringe on the rights of children." An example of this is freedom from physical punishment. In fact, in 1978 an Oklahoma pastor forbade his daughter to attend a dance. She was taken from him by the court and was returned to the family only with the stipulation that she would never again have to do something that she didn't want to do. There is now a law in Oklahoma that a child can be taken to a psychologist or psychiatrist without parental consent.

3- The goal includes sexual freedom for a child. "A child should be given the freedom to express oneself sexually in any way he or she desires including fornication, homosexuality (or other gross acts of immorality) with no parental control or limitations."

4- Children should be protected from racial or religious discrimination. "No one has the right to teach their children their own religious beliefs. Children should be removed from the family to prevent such an unfavorable influence."

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5- Children should be “delivered from nationalism or patriotism. Schools should use every means possible to combat family attitudes that favor nationalism.”

These are just five of the ten points in this declaration. How far has it gone? President Carter's administration asked for and received permission to designate 1979 as The Year of the Child. As far back as 1970, a bill went through Congress to take children into mandatory government child care from the age of 6 months to 6 years at which time they would be taken into mandatory public school. One hundred and eighty-six congressmen voted for it. Recent bills in Congress that are now being considered are asking these questions:

1- Should children be permitted to sue their parents if forced to attend church?

2- Should children be paid minimum wage if asked to do household chores?

3- Should children be given the right to choose their own family?

The U.S. National Commission on the International Year of the Child has set out some goals. They are as follows: to set up a conference on children with an eye to legalizing abortion, creating government supervised family planning, condoning homosexual marriages, creating an equal rights amendment to the constitution for children and a government take-over of responsibility where children are concerned. I don't like to read this sort of thing, because I don't want to get too negative, but I do want us to be aware of the problem.

For instance, this summer, the Texas legislature passed a law which, in effect, makes it a crime to physically punish a child by spanking. One noted authority who speaks on college campuses and has written three books on this subject and is well-accepted among this group, makes this claim, “I am looking for a world where there are no families, no schools, and no parent-child relationships. Our goal is to free the child. To do that, we must do away with parenthood and marriage. We must settle for nothing less than total elimination of the family entity.” Do you see where this comes from? Up front. It is exactly the opposite from the plan of God.

The plan of God is that the home is the center of society. The

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parent-child relationship is the key to everything that is spiritual. That is the intent in the heart of God and why the home is so important to God. That is why this is such an important subject for us to talk about.

In this lesson, I would like to suggest to you that God has two basic reasons for protecting the home at any cost. These are two reasons that Satan cannot stand. These are the two reasons why Satan fights with all he has to destroy the home as we know it.

Reason 1- God, from the foundation of time, ordained that the principles of the faith must be passed on one principle at a time, one day at a time, from one generation to the next. In other words, His basic agency of discipleship is the family. God's key solution to evangelism and discipling is in the home. If Satan can interrupt that cycle, to whom will the baton be handed in the next generation? I would like to ask you a question. How many of you have grown up with at least one Christian parent or sister or brother in the home? This is God's program whenever possible, that the message of the gospel and the training of lives should be done in the home. Let's look at God's training manual in Deuteronomy 4.

Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, (in other words, keep spiritually alert) lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life (in other words, don't forget what God has done for you). And teach them to your children and your grandchildren (this is God's plan),

especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, (listen to these two reasons He said we are to hear the Word of God, number one) that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, (and number two) and that they may teach their children.'

(Deuteronomy 4:9,10 NKJV)

We need to learn to fear God and to teach our children in the home. There is a more detailed instruction book we can see, if we turn over two chapters to Deuteronomy 6 where we begin reading in verse one with a pronouncement:

"Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, (in other words, here is the Word of God)

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that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

(Deuteronomy 6:1,2 NKJV)

In other words, the purpose is obedience, as God says I want you to learn them and I want your sons to learn them and I want your grandchildren to learn them. This is your responsibility, obedience for you, obedience for your children and obedience for your grandchildren. God said “This is the mantle I am placing on you.” Then He promises a blessing at the end of verse 2 and the beginning of verse 3,

...and that your days may be prolonged.

Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ (Deuteronomy 6:2b,3 NKJV)

Then He gives us the message in verses 4 and 5,

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!

(Deuteronomy 6:4 NKJV)

He is saying that God is all there is, and God is all you need. You can build your life with no other raw materials than God. He goes on to continue the message in verse 5,

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

(Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV)

We need to love God with our thoughts, our emotions and our choices. It is mind, emotion and will under His control. It is called discipleship. It is called commitment. It involves conviction, things you would rather die for than relinquish. That is the message. He then gives us the means, by which the message is to be proclaimed in verses 6-9. He tells us how we do it in verse 6,

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

(Deuteronomy 6:6 NKJV)

This is number one. He says, “Believer, I want you to take the Word of God, memorize it, meditate on it and store it in your heart like a memory bank so that every thought you think, every move you make will be led by the Spirit, because the Word of God will be paramount in your life.” Put the Word of God first in your life. This is your first priority. The second objective is found in

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verse 7,

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

(Deuteronomy 6:7 NKJV)

In other words, you spend the rest of your life teaching your children. This is the plan of God. Do you see why Satan wants the children out of the home, and why he wants the home dissolved as the center of life? It is because the Spirit of God through the Word of God takes the message of God and changes people into the image of God through the home. We see in the next two verses that the answer to this is called "Show and Tell."

You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

(Deuteronomy 6:8,9 NKJV)

You take the Word of God and bind it on your house. How many of you give your children assignments in the Scripture like they have at school? How many of you teach your children to memorize the Word of God, to feed upon it, and to get excited about being taught about it from their earliest years? It ought to be as frontlets before our eyes. The Word of God should take the place of secular alternatives. That is what they ought to see wherever they look. God says to write it on the doorposts and gates of your house. The central theme of your home ought not to be football or entertainment or money or pleasure, but Jesus. This is what God is saying.

But "show" is not all, "tell" is a big part of it. The verse says, "You talk about it all of the time. You talk about Him. You talk about Him when you sit in your house." This is the purpose of the home. When you are sitting in your house, it is good to have daily times of family study when a family gathers around the Word of God. Regularly, in your casual conversation, Jesus needs to be the natural source. When you are walking by the way, the places you go should be for His glory. The subjects you speak about while you are going should be His story. While they are preparing for bed, your children should learn to meditate on the Word as they go to bed. They ought to be able to meditate on the Scripture as they go off to sleep with the Word paramount in their minds.

Then, the first thing upon rising, when they get up in the

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morning, they ought to be singing, "Good Morning, Lord." They could sing, "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." We ought to arise with such joy in our spirit and we ought to communicate it to our children that this is God's day and God's message and God's program, and we are God's people. This is what the Word is saying.

One national television authority who is a head of a national network was quoted recently as saying that television is the greatest single educational force in America. This is particularly true for the children. Something like 65% of their information comes from the "tube." This same person indicated that the goal of the television networks was to break down traditional family roles and morality. So, if necessary, turn off the television and make Jesus the honored guest in your home. At every meal, the topic of your conversation ought to be Jesus. Jesus ought to be a more natural conversation to your children than the Dallas Cowboys.

The whole idea is that the home is the instrument of God to instruct the children of God in the ways of God. In some ways, we have gotten away from that, and we are to blame. Satan is up front about it now, and his desire is to destroy the home and eliminate that possibility. Some other verses for you to look up concerning this topic are: Deuteronomy chapters 11, 29, and 32, and Joshua 4. Proverbs 22 says,

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old,
he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6 NKJV)

"The way he should go" in the Hebrew means literally, in the manner in which the bow is bent. Each child having a specifically different personality, needs to be ministered the Word as it relates to his needs and personality. Train up a child in the manner in which the bow is bent and when he is old, he will not depart from it. This means a life time and full time parent's task is that of ministering a personal life communication of the Word of God. When they stand up, when they sit down, when they go to bed, when they rise up, on the doorposts of the house and on the gates of the house, everywhere, Jesus should be seen. This is still God's plan. The home is God's training school from one generation to the next.

Satan's attack in the past has been subtle, through television, through developing a hyperactive society where parents and

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children are always on the run. He attacks by allowing the church and the school to compete with the family by allowing society to disintegrate the authority of the parent. But now, his attacks are more overt. Remove children from the home. Remove parents from the home. Remove God from the home.

God's physical purpose for the family is to reproduce and replenish the earth. God's purpose for the family spiritually is to reproduce and replenish the kingdom. With inflation, intervention by the government, immorality and unemployment rampant, who would want to bring children into an evil world like this? Answer, Christians. The darker the darkness, the brighter the light shines. The more intense the conflict, the more need there is for a fresh supply of soldiers. In children, being fed the Word of God in homes and Sunday School classes, are God's warriors who have been brought into the kingdom for such a time as this. You have been a part of bringing them into the world and bringing them to the Lord. This is your commission as parents.

This is Satan's first reason for wanting the home, as we know it, to be dissolved. He wants to destroy our Basic Training Camp and take away the instructors.

Reason 2- He wants to take away our example, because this is a second reason that is just as vital as the first.

God has, in Scripture, represented Himself in tangible, physical ways so that we with our finite minds, could make the Spiritual Switch and be able to grasp the real meaning. This is why Jesus spoke in parables. When He wanted to tell us about the Word of God, He gave us the parable of the sower. When He wanted to tell us about ministering to others, He gave us the parable of the Good Samaritan. When He wanted to teach us about forgiveness, He gave us the parable about the prodigal son. When He wanted to teach us about stewardship, He gave us the parable of the talents. But, when He wanted to give us reflections of His character, He did so by identification with physical objects and relationships. God told us that if we wanted to know about His steadfastness, we could look at a rock. He said "Jehovah is your rock and your fortress." If we want to know how steadfast God is, we could look at a huge rock and then we would get a picture of it.

Jesus said,

I am the vine, you are the branches.

(John 15:5a)

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If we want a picture of how we can grow in Christ, we look at a vine or study a tree. He continued,

He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;
(John 15:5b NKJV)

He tells us about pruning. He tells us about tribulation. He tells us about the relationship between the vine and the branches.

If we want to know how God leads His children through concern, we look at a shepherd, and study his life. Jesus said,

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.
(John 10:11 NKJV)

If we want to learn about the revelation of God, we read about God as light and how the darkness cannot comprehend or overcome the light.

In Scripture, God is seen as a fountain, as a shield, as water and as bread. In other words we learn of God by looking at these physical illustrations that God has given us to show us who He is. But to each of the illustrations, God gave but passing reference compared to one basic, supreme example that begins in Genesis and goes all the way through Revelation. Hundreds and hundreds of times, God says the primary picture in Scripture of Himself is that of a parent, a father. Jehovah says, "When you see Me, you see what a perfect father should be." More than that, when you see your earthly fathers behaving as fathers ought to behave, you have the best, tangible portrait possible of God. This is the reason so many counselors say that an individual's first image of God is the image he has of his father.

Satan hates this because the perfect father's domain is the home. God is the perfect father. He has prepared a home for us. The father will be in that home and will be an authority in that home. What is the perfect father?

1- The perfect father is the one who teaches his children. John 8 says,

My Father has taught Me, and I speak of these things.
(John 8:26 paraphrased)

If you want to learn the principle of being taught by God, you look at a father teaching his son.

2- The perfect father is one who knows how to love without limit. In John 3 Jesus said,

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The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. (John 3:35 NKJV)

I John 3 says,

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! (I John 3:1 NKJV)

This is perfect love.

3- The perfect father is the one who gives direction. John 5 says,

For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; (John 5:20 NKJV)

Do you see the principle? Whenever He wants to communicate the character of God, He communicates the relationship of parent to child. That is why the home is so important. Your children are getting imagery of how God relates to His children by looking at the relationship of parent to child.

4- A perfect father is one who assumes responsibility. In John 6, Jesus says,

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; (John 6:44 NKJV)

In Luke 22, Jesus says,

“Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” (Luke 22:42 NKJV)

5- A perfect father is one who possesses authority. John 5 says,

Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. (John 5:25 NKJV)

6- A perfect father is one who provides for the needs of his children. It is a perfect picture of provision. If you want to know about the provision of God, you can look at a small child and see how his parents take care of him and provide for his needs. Sometimes parents let their children cry, but only because it can be better for them to cry. However, they are always there to meet their needs. Matthew 7 says,

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

(Matthew 7:11 NKJV)

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Luke 11 says,

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?

Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:11-13 NKJV)

7- Your heavenly Father, the perfect father, is one who protects his children from harm. In John 17 we read of the most intimate conversation ever written between the Father and Son.

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. (John 17:11 NKJV)

In Matthew 26 we read,

Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:53 NKJV)

In John we read,

And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. (John 10:28,29 NKJV)

Oh, the imagery of Scripture! That is the picture and Satan wants to destroy the negative.

8- The heavenly Father, the perfect father, is the one who prepares for the future. I Peter 1 says,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (I Peter 1:3-5 NKJV)

9- The heavenly Father is one who leaves an inheritance for his children. Galatians 4 says,

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Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (Galatians 4:7 NKJV)

In John 16 Jesus says,

All things that the Father has are Mine...
(John 16:15 NKJV)

10- The heavenly Father is one who takes pleasure in his children. We learn as we see earthly parents who are proud of their children. It is not a sin to be proud of your children, if you are proud of them in the right way for the right reasons. Matthew 3 says,

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
(Matthew 3:17 NKJV)

Hebrews 1 says,

For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? (Hebrews 1:5 NKJV)

11- The heavenly Father and the perfect father is one who identifies with his children. We can learn real identification as we see an earthly parent relating properly to his children. I John 2 says,

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.
(I John 2:23 NKJV)

I John 3:1 says,

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
(I John 3:1 NKJV)

12- The heavenly Father is one who trusts his children. We learn as we see earthly parents give responsibilities to their children and trust them with it and let them make mistakes.

The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.
(John 3:35 NKJV)

Hebrews says,

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
(Hebrews 1:1,2 NKJV)

13- The heavenly Father is the one who comforts his children.

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You have never seen comfort until you have seen a mother or father comfort a child who has been hurt. I Thessalonians 2 says,

as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,
(I Thessalonians 2:11 NKJV)

14- Our heavenly Father and a perfect father is one who knows how to forgive. Luke 15 says,

I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

(Luke 15:18-20 NKJV)

Forgiveness.

15- Our heavenly Father and a perfect father is one who chastens. Hebrews 12,

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

(Hebrews 12:5-9 NKJV)

How can you understand the chastisement of God if you do not understand the role of the parent in disciplining the children? That is what Satan wants to take out of the home and out of society. We will see this in the next few lessons because if he does that, then we can believe a new lie that God does not discipline His children.

16- Our heavenly Father is one who rewards. Revelation 22 says,

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And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

(Revelation 22:12 NKJV)

17- Our heavenly Father is one who leads by example. John 5 says,

the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, (John 5:19 NKJV)

The son does likewise. If you see a little boy following after his father, and the dad stands on one foot, the boy will stand on one foot. If the dad lifts up one hand, the boy will lift up one hand. Children follow by example.

18- Our heavenly Father is one who has intimate fellowship with his children. John 10 says,

I and My Father are one. (John 10:30)

19- Our heavenly Father communicates his character to his children. In John 8 Jesus said,

You are of your father the devil, and you will do just what he does. (John 8:44)

In John 14 paraphrased, Jesus says,

Philip, if you had really known Me you would know the Father. When you have seen Me you have seen Him, His character is inherent in Me. (John 14:9)

20- Our heavenly Father and a righteous father is one who is impartial. I Peter 1 says,

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, (I Peter 1:17 NKJV)

21- Our heavenly Father and a perfect father is one who loves his children's friends. John 14 says,

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

(John 14:21-23 NKJV)

22- Our heavenly Father and a perfect father is one who

God's Truth About the Home

demands and expects obedience. John 15 reads,

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
(John 15:8,9 NKJV)

So once again, God's picture book comes into focus. We see the home with authority as ordained by God. The ministry of the parents is meant to portray the role of the perfect Father. We see the image of a father. We see the character of our Father, God. We catch a glimpse of how much He loves us. The home, the portrait of the father and the training school for spiritual education, are ordained of God and thus, hated by Satan. That is the issue. To Satan, this is the Year of the Child. To the Christian, this needs to be the Year of the Home. A fresh beginning for what God intended to be the center of society.

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