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Steps For Joy & Harmony In The Covenant Home

We live in a post-modern era of broken homes, divorces and unhappy marriages. Even Christians are not spared. God, prayer worship and stewardship are often neglected in some families, and the word is given second or no place in these dysfunctional homes. There is a grave need for mutual peace between spouses in the house that is spiritually refreshing to the soul and mind. Husbands and wives in this respect should honour God in the home and create a haven of covenant blessing to the family. Consider some practical wisdom and here are some guidelines below.

The precepts for maintaining marital bliss include:

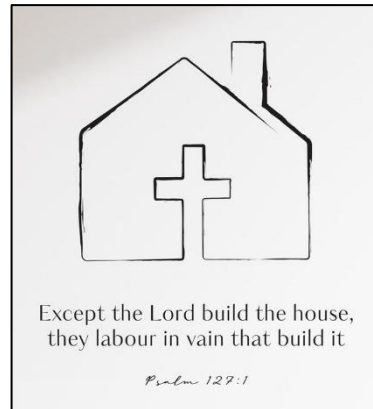
1. Endeavour to Seek God as Centre of the Home

All offences, so much as possibly may be, must be avoided (Romans 12:19). The husband must be watchful over himself and be careful that he gives no offence to his wife, and the wife as well in return. Offences cause contentions and can lead to separation, divorce and serious break-ups.

We are to guard the tongue and be careful of the words we say. Words can hurt and words can heal depending on how we use them. It should be gracious and edifying and not destructive or demeaning to undermine the other person (Colossians 4:6). Some things are best left unsaid for when we open the can of worms we may have to eat them as well.

2. Take No Offence of Others

When an offence is given by the one party, it must not be taken by the other in retaliation or vengeance but rather let it pass by. **Be forgiving and be humble and be easily pacified. This the secret to lasting domestic peace and harmony, then will not peace be broken.** The second blow normally makes the



fray and there are serious consequences. Pride destroys but humility reigns in a loving and godly home. **It is said that a woman often likes to have the last say in an argument rightly or wrongly. Anything the husband says after that starts a new argument. (unless his last words are I love you dear) Something to think about.**

3. Offer Reconciliation in Love & Mean It

Love is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear and so can your spouse if you speak this language. If both be incensed together, the fire is likely to be the greater. Rather be still and acknowledge God and be kind and gracious to each other. Wrath must not lie in bed with two such bedfellows; neither may they part beds for wrath's sake or you will have the devil for a strange bed fellow. Banish him forever from your sight with Christ as the Master



of the home. That this fire may be the sooner quenched, they must both strive first to offer sincere reconciliation in love. Be the blessed peacemakers and be reconciled to each other before night falls (Ephesians 4:26). Not to accept peace when it is offered is more than unchristian; but when wrath is incensed, to seek atonement or forgiveness is the duty of a Christian and it is God's grace that comes from above. **An unforgiving spirit is a dormant volcano waiting to erupt anytime in the home.**



Anger is a choice and it is your call daily, learn to control your temper before it mismanages you and destroys you. **A rage seldom comes from a sage. Those who fly in a rage seldom makes a good landing. Anger is one letter short of DANGER.**

Be easily placated and not easily provoked, as James 3:17 says, *"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."* Overcome faults and small offences and do not exacerbate any minor argument into a bigger disastrous confront that destroys the unity and peace of the home.

4. Do Not Connive with Others, not even the children

Neither children, servants, in-laws nor any other in the family must be bolstered up by the one against the other. The man's partaking with any of the house against his wife or the wife against her husband is a usual cause of contention between

man and wife. Do not make use of the children to hit back at each other. they will grow up learning this and apply it as well at the right time Ladies, while the man is the head of the house you are the heart of the home. make it a heavenly place for him when he comes home and man behave yourself when you are in heaven. The children of the king should use the language of the courts and be courteous and caring to one another

Be a peacemaker by making up with kind and gentle words and kind demeanour. Remember that a soft word turns away anger (Proverbs 15:1). Do not malign one against another and rally support politically from other family members to go against your spouse. It may backfire one day when you make up and the hatred will be still there by the children or the in-laws. Guard your tongue and be humble and it may save your marriage one day.

5. Make No Comparisons with Others & Be Thankful to God

They must forbear and not to compare and contrast one another in arguments with the husbands or wives of other persons or with their own former husbands or wives (in case they have had any before). Comparisons in this kind are very odious. They stir up much unnecessary passion and can cause great contentions and unhappiness. **Rather be content and thankful to God for your marriage and show it often to each other. Be grateful to God for each other and never belittle your spouse in front of others. It is recipe for family disaster if you do that.**



This is dangerous and an unedifying thing to do. Comparison with others breeds discontent and covetousness and do not support family unity, joy and peace. Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:12 says, "*For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*" Beware of this evil practice that has ruined many marriages and homes.

6. Be Not Jealous of Each Other but Appreciate not Depreciate Your Spouse

Above all, they must take heed of rash and unjust jealousy, which is the bane of marriage and greatest cause of discontent that can be given between man and wife. Jealous persons are ready to pick quarrels and to seek occasions of discord. They will take every word, look, action, and motion in the worse part and so take offence where none is given. When jealousy is once kindled, it is as a flaming fire that can hardly be put out. It makes the party whom it possesses implacable because of the tongue that can be destructive with words (James 3:1-10).

The green eye monster is still seeking around to see if there is any that he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). Do not fall into the wiles of the evil one again but put on the

whole armour of God and withstand it at the right time (Ephesians 6:10-18). **Remember that while the Man is the Head of the House ,the Woman is the Heart of the Home**

7. Endeavour to Honour God First & Respect Each Other

In all things that may stand with a good conscience, they must endeavour to please one another and deny your own rather than cause discontent to the other. Paul notes this as a common mutual duty belonging to them both and we need to express care and concern for each other practically. No one in his sound mind can reject true love when it is genuinely displayed over a period of time.

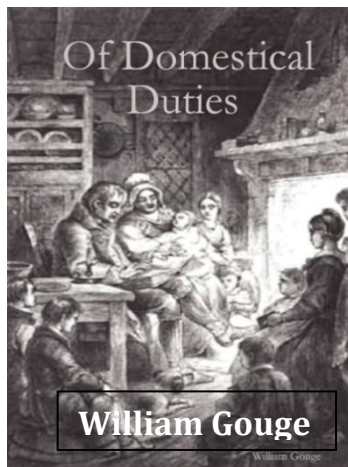
Make a conscientious effort to bless, encourage, support and uphold and appreciate each other in our words and actions. Ephesians 4:32 says, "*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*" Do not take your spouse for granted but be thankful to God for him or her and show it outwardly from time to time to express your love and devotion to each other. Pray together and do things for each other in love and not belittle or disparage against one another especially in front of the children or others.

Conclusion

There is much to be done for the Lord in the modern home today. Satan should not be given the autonomy in the home. **Love is the lubricant that takes away the friction in life. The family that prays together stay together. We do well to remember our covenantal marriage vows to each other (which we will conduct marriage vows renewal for a couple next month as requested) and I thank God for Angie, my dearest God-given companion and confidante for more than 36 good years of a blessed and edifying matrimony.** Let fervent prayer, family worship and the meditation of the Word govern your lives. **Peace, comfort, joy and hope in the covenant home is precious and is to be guarded by careful demeanour, edifying words and God-honouring actions.** God can sustain and bless a marriage and much more, provided we are committed to honour Christ first and each other in the Lord as we pray, worship, read and apply His Word and grow together with our children in the fear of and admonition of the Lord with tolerance and love for each other. Start today and make up before it is too late.

Jack Sin

(Edited and expanded from Duties that Preserve Marriage in the Free Grace Broadcaster Issue 200, 2006, 28-30, by William Gouge (1575-1653)



Christian Hospitality in the Church

Rom 12:13 says, *“Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.”*

The church is to be warm and welcoming and reaching out to guests and new friends as they come and worship with us. As how Abraham welcomed the heavenly guests whom he met in Gen18, may we show our love and hospitality to the campers who are here for our worship service this morning, especially those who comes from further afield.

We welcome in our midst today:

- Dr Scott Hollander from Western Reformed Seminary, USA, our camp speaker
- Pr Myitta from Myanmar
- Rajesh from Covenant BPC, Bangalore, India
- Joyce Yip from Perth, Australia
- Yashu and her mom from Hope BPC, Adelaide (arriving on Mon night)

This Includes some of our local campers from other churches: Dr Tan YG & Irene, Eld Jeffrey Cheong & Linda, Eld Chua, Lawrence, Foo & Sally and Naomi Wydia of Batam among others.

We will also be meeting some part-time campers from Filadelfia BPC including Pr Ang Liang, Pr Eleckson, Ev Roska and Hana.

We are looking forward to our camp in Batam from 9-12 June as we learn from our speakers

on the theme, *The Christian & the Church in a Digital Age* and other messages. Let us pray for wisdom for the camp committee and they organise the camp for us and divine unction for the various speakers for the morning devotions, the workshop on the Discipline of Edifying and Effective Communication , prayer meeting and the final consecration. Pray to the Lord for a humble and teachable spirit as we learn from the word of God and a blessed time of fellowship, rest and discussions in the Lord with one another.

Heb 10:24,25 says, *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

Jack Sin

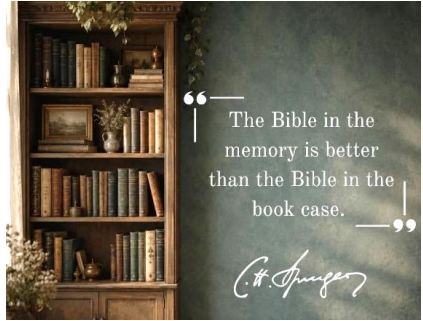


Memory Verse Review

3 Apr Good Friday

"The Cross & the Crown of Life (Rom 5:1-12)"

Rom 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the a_____.



5 Apr Resurrection Sunday

"Why We Need Not Fear Death (1Cor 15: 42-58)"

1Cor 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the v_____ through our Lord Jesus Christ.

12 Apr ***"Biblical Understanding of Biblical Separation & Purity (2Cor 6:14-18, 2Chr 19:1,2)"***

2Cor 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my s____ and d_____, saith the Lord Almighty.

19 Apr ***"Biblical Understanding of Reformed Worship (Jn 4:22-24 1Cor 14:33,40)"***

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for s_____ is of the Jews.

26 Apr ***"Biblical Understanding of Covenant Theology (Rom 9:26-30, Eph 1:4-5)"***

Eph 1:4 According as he hath c_____ us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be h_____ and without b_____ before him in love:

3 May ***"Biblical Understanding of the Role & Nature of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26,15:26,16:13-14)"***

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall t_____ you all things, and bring all things to your r_____, whatsoever I have said unto you.

10 May ***"Biblical Understanding of Christian Evangelism & Missions (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Isa 54:1-3)"***

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in J_____, and in all J_____, and in S_____, and unto the uttermost part of the e_____.

17 May “Biblical Understanding of the Trinity & Deity of Christ (Matt 3:16,17, 1John 4:1-4, John 20:24-28)”

2Cor 13:14 The g_____ of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the l____ of God, and the c_____ of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

24 May “Biblical Understanding of Christian Service (Deut 10:12-20)”

Deut 10:20 Thou shalt f_____ the LORD thy God; him shalt thou s_____, and to him shalt thou c_____, and swear by his name.

31 May “Biblical Understanding of the Inspiration, Canonicity & Sufficiency of the Bible (2Tim3:16,17, 2Pet 1:19-21, Rev 22:18-20)”

2Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for d_____, for r_____, for c_____, for i_____ in righteousness:

Did you get them correct?

[atonement, victory, sons, daughters, salvation, chosen, holy, blame, teach, remembrance, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, earth, grace, love, communion, fear, serve, cleave, doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction]

Knowing What & Why We Believe

Lord's Day Program for April to June 2026

Jun

7 Biblical Understanding of the Second Coming of Christ (Matt 24:3-14; 2Thes 2:3-23, 2Pet 3:9-14)

14 Biblical Understanding of the Defence of the Faith (Jude 3,4, 2Thess 2:15)

21 Biblical Understanding of the Practices of a Local Church (Acts 2:42-47)

Memory Verse

Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Announcements

1. We warmly welcome Dr Scott, Rajesh, Myitta, Joyce and other campers to our Worship Service. If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***Biblical Understanding of the Second Coming of Christ (Matt 24:3-14; 2Thes 2:3-23, 2Pet 3:9-14)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Knowing What & Why We Believe***".
3. Next Sunday, Dr Scott Hollander will preach on "***Biblical Understanding of the Defence of the Faith (Jude 3,4, 2Thess 2:15)***".
4. After the brunch break is a seminar by **Dr Scott Hollander** on "***The History of Israel***". A second seminar on the "***The Geography of Israel***" will be held on next **Sun 14 Jun**.
5. **SHBPC Church Camp Briefing will be held after the seminar.**
6. Chinese Fellowship meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**]. Join us for time of learning on the Book of Samuel and Heroes of the Faith.
7. Outreach at **All Saints Home (Tampines)** will be held on **Sat 20 Jun at 9am**. Register with Eld Yue Kay by 14 Jun.
8. Come and join the **Door-to-Door Evangelism@Macpherson** on **Sun 21 Jun** after lunch to invite residents to our Gospel Sunday Service on 28 Jun.
9. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
10. Pray for:
 - **SHBPC Church Camp: 9-12 June 2026**. Theme: "***The Biblical Perspective of the Christian & Church in a Digital Age***". Camp speaker: Dr Scott Hollander from Western Reformed Seminary, USA. Venue: Yello Hotel, Batam.
 - **Medical: Kin Hoong's daughter Joyce** [chemotherapy], **Sharon** [recovery from viral infection], **Kim Meng's mother** [heart condition], **Agnes' parents** [medical conditions & salvation], **Joseph & Lilian's Dil Annabelle Chan** [knee injury],
 - **Dr Jason & Bee Leng** (Taiwan Attachment, 26May – 23Dec), **Dr Sam** [Transition to new appointment in Ningbo], **Yusong** [Scholarship for King's College, London]
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application]
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.