

Wife and Mother: Woman of Wisdom

Slide 1

“If the family were a fruit, it would be an orange, a circle of sections, held together but separable - each segment distinct.”

The orange is a great metaphor of what a family is like...our family of origin, nuclear family, extended family, our church family, and the universal family of God! Diverse and distinct, yet interconnected through lineage as well as the Spirit of God.

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Woman of Wisdom
[Proverbs 14:1 &](#)
[Proverbs 24:3-4](#)

As most of you know, the pastors are doing a sermon series this month on the Christian home, specifically marriage and parenting. We began with the foundation of God reaching down to humankind to establish an unconditional love relationship through his son, Jesus Christ. It is because of the sacrificial death of Christ and his resurrection that we can have new life and new relationships. The Bible teaches that God desires all humankind to be in relationship with the Creator as well as in relationship with one

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another. It is God's Covenant Love and Commitment...it is a promise that we can trust in. God is a God of relationships and thus ordained the concept of "family."

I would like to invite you to read responsively in the back of your hymnals # 593 as we hear God's Word about family.

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Where does the
theology of family
relationships
come from?

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Slide 4

The Bible talks about God as parent in a covenant relationship to the children of Israel.

Slide 5

The Bible also teaches about Christ as groom in a covenant relationship to the church as bride.

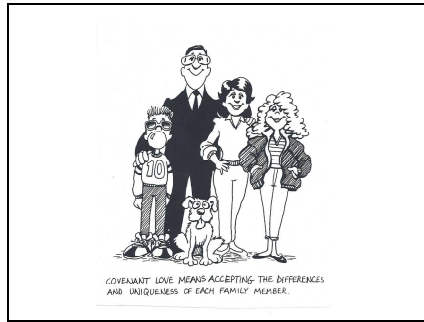
Slide 6

Jack and Judith Balswick propose a theology of family relationships based on God's covenant love.

The book called *The Family...A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home* written by Jack and Judith Balswick proposes a theology of family relationships.

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Slide 8

There are four unfolding sequential, but nonlinear, stages as follows: covenant, grace empowering, and intimacy.

We recognize that although we are created in the image of God, we are fallen creatures who will fail in all aspects of relationship with God and others. There is a sense in which no person can ever make a covenant commitment in the way that God covenants with us. Nor will any of us be able to foster an atmosphere of grace the same way God gives grace. Our empowering attempts at relationships will often resemble possessive power and our attempts at intimacy will look pale next to God's knowing and caring. Any yet, we are hopeful, because

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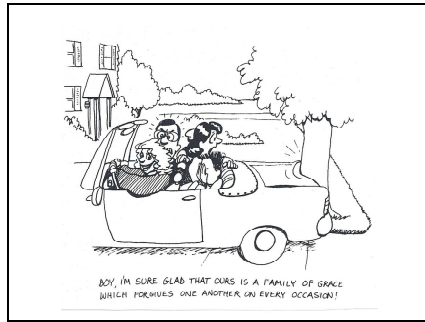
God has been revealed perfectly in Jesus Christ. He is our model and enabler as we live out our lives and relationships according to God's purposes.

Therefore, I am alluding to the Balwicks sequential stages of family relationships where growth and maturity start with initial commitment and grow in maturity to deeper stages:

From Conditional to Unconditional Love
Covenant: To love and be loved
From Shame to Grace
To forgive and be forgiven
From Control to Empowering
To serve and be served
From lack of feeling to intimacy To
know and be known

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Slide 10

What is God's
ideal for a wife
and mother?

Today we will focus on the role of a wife and mother in a Christian home. May I add that this also applies to having grown kids with grandchildren, mentoring other younger wives and mothers, and other situations that come to your mind. Being God's woman in the home has always been challenging and especially in this present time of our changing world when wives and mothers are working full time and the demands are overwhelming. Women were created to be nurturers and nesters. A home defines the woman in a way that

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becomes a projection of herself—her love and care or sometimes, sadly, the lack of it.

But the Bible rightly puts it, “Homes are built by the wisdom of women.” (Proverbs 14:1) And the Bible also reminds us God must be central. “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” (Proverbs 127:1)

Let’s hear what women in our church have to say about being a wife and mother in a Christian home! I have asked several women the questions: “As a believer and follower of Christ, what are the resources and rewards you have as a wife and mother?” As a Christian, what are some of the challenges you find being a wife and mother?”

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Slide 11

A woman who
wants to be a
godly **wife** needs
to strive for these
qualities:

Slide 12

Attitude of faith
and trust in her
Lord and
Savior...living in
victory

Slide 13

Prayerful
life...seeking
God and his
wisdom

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Slide 14

Continuing to live in
God's Word and
promises....empow
ered by the Spirit.

Slide 15

True helpmate to
her husband ...
selfless giving
and love.

Slide 16

Always striving
to forgive
...offering grace

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Slide 17

Willingness to
surrender in
reverence of Christ
... humbleness and
respect.

Slide 18

I Peter 3:2 Amplified
"Admire, praise, be
devoted to, deeply
love and enjoy your
husband."

Slide 19

A woman who
wants to be a godly
mother needs to
strive for these
qualities:

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Slide 20

Two requirements of the Christian mother involve being dedicated in her role of mothering and self-disciplined in the performance of that role.

Slide 21

Loving her children in different ways, especially with unconditional love.

Slide 22

Loving her husband and her children's father unconditionally ... gives security to the child and the home.

Read from Dr. Dobson's book page 62

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Slide 23

Respecting and
accepting her
children...gives a
gift of self esteem
to our children.

Slide 24

Role modeling
forgiveness and
grace to her
children.

Slide 25

Teaching her
children about
Jesus and the
life of faith

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Slide 26

Spending
quality time to
nurture and
build a healthy
relationship.

Slide 27

Proverbs 31:28
"Her children arise
and call her
blessed; her
husband also, and
he praises her."

As we conclude this message today, allow me to read from Proverbs 24:3-3
Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established. By knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

Jack Hayford, a pastor and writer, says in his book, *The Leading Edge*, that if we build homes that are aglow with God's love for one another, his light of truth shining from our windows and His grace pouring out toward our neighbors, the world will

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beat a path to our doors.

As individual parents
and as vital
congregations, the
challenge of the new
millennium calls us to
build homes and
families---havens of
relational wholeness to
which multitudes coming
in from the cold of
mangled relationships
will be attracted, and
thus find their way into
God's
Forever family.

May we pray
together.....