



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## What Does the Home Look Like According to the Word of God?

For years now our society has been trying to normalize the modern home. A home with two dads or moms is portrayed as normal. Broken homes are so prevalent it's hard to know who belongs to whom. Cohabitation before marriage has been so normalized that hardly anyone is shocked to hear "so and so is living with his girlfriend". Is there any wonder why so many people feel so empty inside? There has been such divided love between the real parents and the step-parents. There is little or no stability while growing up. The good news is we do have God's blueprint for the home and it looks like this...

### **Marriage is between a man and a woman**

"And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.""  
Genesis 2:18

"Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man."  
Genesis 2:22

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

### **The Husband is the Head of the Wife**

"...Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you."" Genesis 3:16

"For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body." Ephesians 5:23

### **The Husband is to Love His Wife**

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her," Ephesians 5:25

"So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself."  
Ephesians 5:28

### **The Wife is to Submit to and Obey her Husband**

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord." Ephesians 5:22

"... admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. Titus 2:4-5

### **The Wife is to Respect Her Husband**

"Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband." Ephesians 5:33

### **Children are to Obey and Honor their Parents**

"Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord." Colossians 3:20

"HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise:" Ephesians 6:2

### **Fathers are to Bring their Children Up**

"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

## Children are Disciplined

"...for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?" Hebrews 12:7

God's way always works best.

STACY

# Serpents and Doves

by David Smitherman

Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves", Matt. 10:16.

Serpents and doves, two creatures that have little in common. And yet, in the development of our character, we are to be "as" they are in some respects. Quite a paradox, isn't it? Well, much of the Christian's character is a paradox. For instance...

We are to control our tongues (Jas. 3:1-f) but also speak boldly (Eph. 6:20). There is no virtue in a bold tongues that is uncontrolled or one so controlled that it is never bold. Our tongues need a "controlled boldness" in order to rebuke sin both publicly (Gal. 2:11-f) and privately (Matt. 18:15). Though the consequences may be unpleasant (Mk. 6:16-18) we must speak boldly and when occasion demands it our bold tongues must be blunt (Matt. 23:15). Fear of saying a wrong thing should not keep us from saying the right thing (Matt. 10:26-27). Someone has wisely said, "Silence is not always golden; sometimes it is just plain yellow."

Paul's humility (1 Cor. 15:9) and yet his confidence (2 Tim. 4:7-8) exemplify yet another paradox. Humility should not breed timidity but neither should confidence give rise to arrogance. Humility will keep us aware of our own weaknesses but should never cause a hesitancy to point out sin in the lives of others (1 Cor. 5:1-13). We are humbled by our liability to err in opinions and understanding of Truth, but are confident that there are some things that cannot be compromised (Gal. 2:5).

The virtue of longsuffering (Gal. 5:22) must be balanced with intolerance (Col. 2:4,8,16,18). Longsuffering is needed as attempts are made to progress toward maturity, but intolerance is demanded when progress is not made and goals not reached (1 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:11-f). It is one thing to suffer long with sinners as they attempt to conquer sin but quite another thing to tolerate wrong-doing (Rev. 2:15-16,20-21).

We must certainly care what others think about us (Matt. 5:13-16) but at the same time think little of how others evaluate us (Gal. 6:10). The virtue of living to influence others (Phil. 2:12-16; 1 Pet. 2:11-12) can so easily become the vice of living to please others (Gal. 2:11ff).

Some are prone by "nature" to be "as serpents" or "as doves" and the Devil uses our "natural inclinations" to cause an imbalanced character. He would have us emphasize what comes easily and de-emphasize what doesn't. As a consequence we often go to extremes: either a pseudo-sophisticated person who thinks that "cultured" people avoid bold speech, confident affirmations, intolerance of sin, and conduct that may "offend" others; or a crudeness that is abusive in speech, arrogant, intolerant, and unconcerned about what others think.

The development of a balanced, yet paradoxical, character does not come quickly (Heb. 5:12---"by reason of time") nor is it easy (1 Cor. 9:25---"striveth...self-control"), but there are no short-cuts to maturity.