

News & Notes

Sunday, December 9, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Francis Alberson; Steve Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Johnny Carr; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Steve Heavener; Terry Hopkins; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; David Lipe; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Sue Moody; Diane Mize; Kelly Parker; Ann Ray; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Jon Street; Ruby Tapp; Rural Tapp; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Luther Williams; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of December is Ketchup.

Special thanks to Mary Curd for hosting the holiday gathering this past Friday;

Ashland Events: Today: Men's meeting at South Ashland after following morning service; Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM;

Area Events: Today: Area wide youth night at the Chapman church of Christ;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Preparing Your Heart to Serve God (Ezra 7:10)

PM: Faith (Hebrews 11:1)

For the Record (December 2, 2007):

Attendance: 77 Contribution: \$992.00 Budget: \$1326.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

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Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King
Carrol Street

spreading the Good News
Ashland Announcer

"GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS..." (MATTHEW 28:19)

GOD'S ROLE FOR MEN

Jay Yeager

In a society plagued by a grumbling respect for the Word of God, it should surprise no one that God's designed role for both men and women would suffer abuse as well. The intent of this article on the role of men, and the next on the role of women, is to address these two vital roles as they pertain to the marriage, the home and the church as God would have them to be.

1. God's role for men in the marriage. There are many places which speak of the relationship that is to exist between the husband and wife: The physical relationship (I Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4), the commitment that is to span the lifetime of one or both parties (Romans 7:1-3) and the unity that is forged by the marriage (Matthew 19:4-6). However, nowhere is the marriage relationship more profoundly illustrated than when it is likened to that relationship which exists between Christ and the church.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:23-25).

Those verses teach two essential ingredients for the God given

role of the husband. The first calls for maturity and wisdom, as he is to lead in the marriage relationship. The second, for deep and lasting devotion, for he must love his wife as Christ loves the church. *“So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourished and cherished it, even as the Lord the church”* (Ephesians 5:28-29).

2. God’s role for men in the home. The man’s role as the provider of the home is certainly taught in the scriptures (I Timothy 5:8) and needs to be emphasized. However, his relationship far exceeds just providing for the physical and material needs of his family. A man may provide an abundance of material possessions, and still fail miserably as a husband and father if he neglects to prepare his family for eternity.

How wonderful it would be if the words spoken by the Lord concerning Abraham could be applied to every husband and father. *“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken to him”* (Genesis 18:19).

3. God’s role for the men in the church. The role men occupy in the church is the same as the role men occupy in the home; namely, that of leadership. Now, that none misunderstand, I make absolutely no reference to legislative matters. No one has a right to make laws for God (James 4:12).

However, God is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33). He wants all things done decently and in order (I Corinthians 14:40); therefore, God has not left us without organization. Each congregation is to have elders (Acts 14:23), that is, men who have met the qualification (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-11; I Peter 5:1-3) and are appointed to take the oversight of the congregation (Acts 20:28). These men are to ensure that all matters are done in accordance with God’s will and are answerable for the

souls in their care (Hebrews 13:17).

In the assembly of the church where both men and women are present, men are to assume the position of leadership in both the preaching and teaching (I Timothy 2:11-12), as well as the worship service itself (I Corinthians 14:34-35).

Trust God

Tom Moore

Not many people enjoy going to the doctor, but according to Reuters, in 1994, one London accountant took that to an extreme. The sixty-three-year-old man knew he needed bladder surgery but he could not overcome his fear of doctors and hospitals. So he self-reliantly did what had to be done: He tried to perform the surgery on himself. Tragically he got an infection from the self-surgery and later died. The coroner said, "Unfortunately, this man's drastic remedy went wrong. A simple operation would have solved the problem."

Just as this man didn't trust doctors or hospitals, many today do not trust God, or at least, the act like they do not trust God.

Solomon declared, "Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart, And lean not upon thine own understanding: In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he will direct thy paths" (Pro. 3:5-6). This wise king also said, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool; But whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered" (Pro. 28:26).

If we fail to trust God - putting more trust in ourselves, then we are sure to do ourselves great harm - even spiritual death. Beloved let us place our unwavering faith, hope, obedience and trust in the Almighty God.