

# GODLY PRIORITIES (*Mind Wars on Family*)

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## 1. THERE IS A RAGING WAR ON YOUR FAMILY

- Just look at the STATISTIC:
  - Fewer people are marrying.
  - Those who do marry are more prone to split up.
    - *In 2016 there were 118,401 marriages*
    - *In 2016 there were 46,604 divorces in Australia*
    - **ALMOST HALF OF THEM GOT DIVORCE.**
  - Adultery and Fornication and sex before marriage are NEARLY UNIVERSAL.
    - *The number of couples living together BEFORE MARRIAGE has increased from 16% of couples in 1976 to 80.8% in 2016 in Australia.*
  - ROLES WITHIN MARRIAGE ARE REVERSED.
  - PORNOGRAPHY is one of the BIGGEST ONLINE BUSINESS IN THE WORLD!!!
  - Clearly, marriage is on the ropes.
- Just look at the CARNAGE
  - Children are more likely to ever to grow up without one of their biological parents.
  - Children live in households where rebellion and disrespect are tolerated, even encouraged.
  - Millions of babies are aborted every year.
  - Divorces are everywhere and on the rise.

## • THERE IS A RAGING WAR FOR YOUR FAMILY.

- ASK ME “WHY?” PLEASE.
  - Because God created marriage.
  - **Marriage is God’s idea!**
  - Because GODLY MARRIAGE is God’s ultimate plan to **RAISE GODLY CHILDREN.**
    - Throughout the ages, God’s plan and desire has always been for parents to raise up their children to know HIM and love Him and walk in His ways.
    - Because Godly family provides a safe place where children can experience God's love (through their parents) and learn how to love other people.
  - That’s why as a church we teach on marriage in LOF (even for single people).
  - We bring Pastors from all over the world to teach, equip our parents how to lead a GODLY FAMILY, how to raise A GODLY CHILDREN.
- There is no manual on marriage, yet there is war that wants to DESTROY our families.

## • HOW DOES THE ENEMY DESTROY YOUR FAMILIES?

- IT’S NOT SICKNESS, FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, OR SENDING THIRD WHEEL.
- THAT’S JUST THE FRUITS OF IT.
- BUT THE ROOT OF ALL OF THEM.
- THEIR MAIN WEAPONS ARE:
  - **BY PLACING ‘HIGH THOUGHTS’ THAT ARE NOT IN LINE WITH THE WORD OF GOD.**
  - WHAT ARE HIGH THOUGHTS?
    - **2 Corinthians 10:4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thoughts that exalts against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.**
  - WHAT IS HIGH THOUGHTS.
    - EVERY THOUGHTS THAT EXALT THEMSELVES AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD.
    - *“I KNOW BETTER THAN GOD”*
    - *I DON’T NEED TO OBEY,*
    - *I DON’T NEED TO COME TO CHURCH,*
    - *I NEED TO WORK ON SUNDAYS (DOUBLE PAY!),*
    - *I DON’T NEED TO TITHE,*
    - *I DON’T NEED TO HONOUR MY HUSBAND, LOVE MY WIFE,*
    - *I DON’T NEED TO DILIGENTLY TEACH MY CHILDREN....*
  - AND THE BIBLE SAYS ‘**YOU OUGHT TO CAST DOWN THE HIGH THOUGHTS AND BRING THEM INTO CAPTIVITY.**
  - THERE ARE SO MANY “HIGH THOUGHTS” WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR FAMILY.
  - **BUT IF YOU DON’T PUT BIBLE / THE WORD OF GOD AS THE NUMBER ONE FOUNDATION FOR YOUR FAMILY THAT’S WHEN DIVISION COMES IN, BONDAGE COMES IN, FEAR, DISTRUST, AFFAIR COMES IN**
  - **Paul says in Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**
  - Conformed: Negatively “formed”, shaped and influenced.
    - **2 Corinthians 4:4 Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**
- AND IF YOU ALLOW HIGH THOUGHTS TO COME IN OUR FAMILIES, THEY WILL BUILD STRONGHOLDS IN OUR SELF, IN OUR CHILDREN’S.
  - What is **STRONGHOLD?**
    - **a fortified place, or a place of domination and control through the input of parents, secular schooling, media, experience, etc.**
    - THE WORLD TELLS US TO “YIELD TO IT, BEND YOUR KNEES.”
      - BECAUSE THEY ARE GOING AFTER OUR GENERATIONS.
    - BUT GOD SAYS IF YOU WANT TO WIN THIS WARFARE, WE GOT TO CAST DOWN EVERY HIGH THOUGHTS AND PUT THEM INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.
    - IF THE WORD SAY SO, THEN I DO IT.

## • EXAMPLE ON HIGH THOUGHTS — PRIORITY

- SOME PEOPLE HAVE 2-3-4 JOBS
  - *THEIR HEART IS THEY WANT TO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN BETTER LIVES.*
  - *THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE TRUE.*
  - *BUT MAJORITY OF THAT ARE LIES.*
  - *BECAUSE KIDS DOESN’T NEED MORE MONEY, THEY NEED MORE OF YOU.*
- WHAT IS YOUR WORTH TO YOUR KIDS?
  - YOU’RE PRICELESS TO YOUR CHILDREN.
  - THERE IS NO PRICE TAG.
- YOU NEED A 40 HOURS A WEEK, AND THE REST OF YOUR TIME YOU USE TO BUILD YOUR FAMILY/ MARRIAGE AND YOU DO THE WILL OF GOD, SAVE SOULS MAKE DISCIPLES.
  - **BECAUSE IF NOT, YOU WILL END UP GIVING THEM MATERIALLY, BUT YOU’RE NOT GIVING THEM WHAT THEY REALLY NEED, A FATHER, YOUR PRESENCE, YOUR TEACHING, YOUR TIME.**
  - SOMETHING MISSING IN THEIR CHARACTER BECAUSE THEY ARE NEVER BEING DISCIPLED BY THEIR PARENTS.
  - PARENTS..... YOU REPRESENT GOD IN THEIR LIFE, YOU LEAD THEM TO GOD.
  - DON’T LET OTHER PEOPLE, DON’T LET THE WORLD, INTERNET DISCIPLE YOUR KIDS OTHERWISE.
- MEN....YOU NEED TO DISCIPLE YOUR WIFE AND YOUR CHILDREN BEFORE YOU DISCIPLE OTHERS.
  - WHAT GOOD IS IT FOR US TO SAVE THE WORLD, BUT WE LOSE OUR WIFE, OUR CHILDREN??
  - WE BECOME SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS, BUT WE LOSE OUR MARRIAGE.
  - BECAUSE WE BOUGHT INTO THE HIGH THOUGHTS THAT ARE NOT THE WORD OF GOD.
  - THEY DON’T WANT MORE MONEY, NO... THEY WANT YOU!!!!
  - *SAVY DOESN’T WANT PASTOR ROY, ANOINTED ROY, THE FASTEST GROWING CHURCH IN THE AREA, SHE DOESN’T WANT THAT, SHE DOESN’T WANT MORE TOYS, SHE WANTS MORE OF ME.*
  - *JESSICA DOESN’T WANT A GLOBAL INFLUENTIAL PREACHER, A BISHOP, SHE WANTS HER MAN — WHO LOVES AND LEADS THE FAMILY IN GODLY WAYS.*
  - HE WILL PROSPER YOU.... GOD’S PLAN IS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU.
  - **BUT YOU NEED TO GET YOUR PRIORITY STRAIGHT.**
    - SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM AND EVERYTHING (EVERYTHING THAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE DYING TO GET WILL BE ADDED) UNTO YOU.
    - WE DON’T DO THAT BECAUSE WE DON’T BELIEVE THAT GOD CAN DO EXACTLY THAT!
    - OUR ORDER OF PRIORITIES TELL US WHERE WE TRULY PUT OUR TRUST INTO.
- **THE RIGHT PRIORITIES**
  - **NUMBER 1: GOD**
  - **NUMBER 2: ME**
    - BUT THAT’S SELFISH, NO! BECAUSE IF IM NOT GOOD, NO BODY ELSE WILL BE GOOD.
    - HEALTH, MIND, CHARACTER....SOLID.
  - **NUMBER 3: OUR WIFE / HUSBAND**
  - **NUMBER 4: CHILDREN**
  - **NUMBER 5: GREAT COMMISSION - WIN SOULS AND DISCIPLES**
  - **NUMBER 6: CAREER / VOCATION**
  - IF YOU GET IT OUT OF ORDER — THAT’S THE HIGH THOUGHTS.
    - SOME OF YOU HAVEN’T LED PEOPLE TO THE LORD AND DISCIPLING NOBODY, AND YOU WONDER WHY WE STRUGGLE, BECAUSE WE DON’T TAKE CARE OF GOD’S BUSINESS.
    - IT STARTS WITH MY WIFE, MY CHILDREN AND THEN THE WORLD.
- **James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save you souls.**
  - IT’S NOT COMFORTABLE. SO DOES THE CROSS.
  - DISCIPLESHIP WILL CHALLENGE YOU.
  - IT’S GOOD.
- **Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.**
  - BLESSED IS THE MAN.
  - I WANT TO BE BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS IN EVERYTHING I DO.
  - **HOW? BY NOT WALKING IN THE COUNSEL OF THE WORLD.**
  - **BUT BY WALKING ON THE WORD OF GOD.**
    - *OOOH IT MAY NOT BE POPULAR,*
    - *IT MAY NOT BE COOL,*
    - *IT MAY NOT BE COMFORTABLE.*
    - *BUT HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY, BUT THE PROMISE OF GOD STANDS FOREVER.*
    - *IF GOD SAYS I AM BLESSED, I AM BLESSED INDEED!!!!*
    - *IF GOD SAID THAT I’VE GOT TO CHANGE, IT MAY HURT LIKE HELL, BUT LET IT HURT LIKE HELL TODAY SO I CAN HAVE HEAVEN TOMORROW.*
    - *SOMEBODY CLAP LIKE GOD BLESSES THOSE THAT WALK ON THE WORD OF GOD.*

## 2. WHEN WE CHOOSE GOD’S MIND, WE CHOOSE THE GOOD LIFE (BREAKING THE CURSE)

- **Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.**
  - WE CAN CHOOSE.
  - BUT YOU’VE GOT TO COME TO A POINT WHERE YOU ARE TIRED OF LIVING UNDER THE CURSE.
    - TIRED OF SINGLE FAMILIES, STRUGGLING MENTALLY, INSECURITY, PORN, WORRY
    - BECAUSE YOUR DAD AND MOM DIDN’T BREAK THE CURSE.
    - IF YOU DON’T BREAK THE CURSE, IT WILL GO TO YOUR CHILDREN
    - BUT GOD SAYS I’M GIVING YOU A CHOICE TO BREAK THE CURSE.
    - I AM LIKE ME RIGHT NOW BECAUSE MY GRAND DAD DIDN’T WANT TO DEAL WITH THIS
    - SO I HAVE TO BREAK THE CURSE SO MY SON AND MY DAUGHTER DON’T HAVE TO LIVE UNDER THE CURSE.
  - IT’S NOT EASY.
    - *THERE ARE SO MANY CURSES IN THE MY FAMILY.*
    - *FOR SO MANY YEARS, LOOKING THROUGH MY DAD’S AND GRANDFATHER’S LIFE....*
    - *CHOLESTEROL, PROBLEMS WITH VISION, FEAR, HOLD BY MONEY, WORRY FOR THE FUTURE, INSECURITY, SMALL, TIMID.*
    - *ALL THOSE MENTALITIES ARE LIKE TRUTH IN MY MIND.*
    - I GOT GOOD NEWS FOR YOU TODAY, **YOU CAN CHOOSE LIFE**
    - WHEN YOU CHOSE LIFE EVERY SINGLE DAY, YOU BREAK THAT CURSE FROM YOUR FAMILY.
    - WHEN I CHOSE GOD’S THOUGHTS, I CHOSE LIFE INSTEAD OF CURSES.
  - I CHOOSE....
    - THAT’S WHY JOSHUA SAID ‘**AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE...I CHOOSE**’
    - I CHOOSE TO LOVE GOD OVER EVERYTHING.
    - I CHOOSE TO PUT GOD’S THOUGHT.
    - I CHOOSE TO DECLARE GOD’S PROMISES / FAITH OVER MY BIGGEST FEAR.
    - I CHOOSE TO LOVE MY WIFE.

## 3. GOD’S HEART : A UNITED FAMILY

- **Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation” I will bless you and make your name land that I will show you. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**
  - ABRAHAM BECAME A UNITED FAMILY.
    - A FAMILY THAT IS UNITED IN SERVING GOD.
    - WE CHOSE TO SERVE GOD....TOGETHER.
  - GOD NEVER INTENDED US TO DO HIS MISSION..... ALONE.
    - HE EXPECT US TO CARRY HIS VISION....TOGETHER.
  - JOSHUA SAID “AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE.”
    - THE VISION IS TO SAVE SOULS AND MAKE DISCIPLES.
    - WE DON’T GET AWAY FROM THE GREAT COMMISSION.
    - THE ASSIGNMENT THAT’S IN OUR LIFE, IS THE SAME ASSIGNMENT IN MY LIFE.
    - IN CHRISTIANITY TODAY, THEY LEFT IT TO THE PASTORS.
    - **BUT THE OF GREAT COMMISSION IS FOR ALL BELIEVERS,**
    - NOT JUST THE PASTORS, THE FULL-TIMERS, THE STAFF, THE ANOINTED....**BUT FOR ALL BELIEVERS**
    - BUT MY JOB IS TO PREPARE YOU.
    - SO YOU CAN FOLLOW ME, AS I FOLLOW GOD.
    - AND YOUR CHILDREN CAN FOLLOW YOU.
  - THE COMMON HIGH THOUGHTS / MISPLACED PRIORITIES IN FAMILIES:
  - WE PUT FOOTBALL, SPORTS, HOBBIES, WORK BEFORE GOD, AND WE WONDER WHY OUR CHILDREN TURN THEIR BACK ON GOD & US.
  - BECAUSE THEY BECOME WHO WE ARE:
    - *IF YOU NEVER PRAY, THEY WILL NEVER PRAY.*
    - *IF YOU NEVER GIVE, THEY WILL NEVER GIVE.*
    - *IF YOU NEVER SAVE SOULS, THEY WILL NEVER SAVE SOULS.*
    - *“PARENTS WHO TREAT THE CHURCH AS OPTIONAL SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED WHEN THEIR CHILDREN END UP TREATING JESUS AS UNNECESSARY.”*
  - THE WORLD IS GOING TO GET DARKER.
  - BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE.....I
  - *PARENTS...DON’T FORGET WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR KID’S SPIRITUAL WELLBEING.*
  - *DON’T JUST LEAVE IT TO THE SCHOOL / THE WORLD / INTERNET TO DISCIPLE YOUR KIDS.*
  - **THERE IS POWER WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER.**
    - THERE IS BLESSING WHEN WE DO OUR FINANCES TOGETHER.
    - THERE IS BLESSING WHEN WE DON’T SAY ‘IT’S MY MONEY, THAT’S YOUR MONEY’
    - THERE IS BLESSING WHEN WE SAY ‘LET’S GET TOGETHER’
    - JOSHUA - AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.
  - **Psalms 133:1-3 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments, it is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing – life forevermore.**
    - **THE KEY OF THE BLESSING IS THE UNITY.**
  - WHY DID GOD GIVE ABRAHAM HIS SON, ISAAC?
  - GOD GAVE ABRAHAM ISAAC, BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT ABRAHAM WILL DISCIPLE THEM IN THE WAYS OF GOD.
  - **Deuteronomy 6:7-8 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. 8 you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.**
    - WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE READ THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN??
    - EVERY INTERACTION IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO POINT THEM TO JESUS.
    - DAD “TELL ME A STORY” I LINK ALL THE STORIES, TINKERBELL, WITH JESUS.
    - PRAY EVERY NIGHT WITH THEM.
    - WHEN THEIR FRIENDS / SCHOOL TEACH THEM THE NEGATIVE STUFFS....
    - THEY WILL SAY “NOOOO THAT’S NOT THE WORD OF GOD.”

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. WE WERE DISCUSSING HIGH THOUGHTS AND ONE OF THE EXAMPLE WAS ‘HAVING THE RIGHT PRIORITY’
  - 1: GOD
  - 2: ME (MY HEALTH, MIND, CHARACTER, MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD)
  - 3: OUR WIFE / HUSBAND
  - 4: CHILDREN
  - 5: GREAT COMMISSION - WIN SOULS AND DISCIPLES
  - 6: CAREER / VOCATION
2. IF YOU WOULD EVALUATE YOUR LIFE NOW, HAVE YOU GOT THE RIGHT PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW? AND HOW HAVE THIS AFFECTED YOUR LIFE? (SHARING TIME).
3. WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE IN YOUR PRIORITY LIST MOVING FORWARD (BE PRACTICAL).
4. LEAD THE GROUP TO REPENTANCE PRAYER