

July 31, 2022

# Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

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## God's Plan For The Home

By Heath Rogers

God created man. He saw that it was not good for man to be alone and searched for a suitable companion. When none was found, he fashioned woman from the flesh of the man and the two were joined together (Gen. 2:18-24). God ordained marriage. In doing so, He gave both the husband and the wife the roles that for which they were best suited.

**The Husband/Father.** God has given man the role of provider. What are some things that married men are required to provide? First, men are to provide **material necessities**. *"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever"* (1 Tim. 5:8). Men who will not work are not fulfilling their role, and thus should not be allowed to eat (2 Thess. 3:10). Second, men are to provide **leadership**. The husband is the head of the home. *"For the husband is head of the wife..."* (Eph. 5:23). This role is not about power and control, but about responsibility. Third, the husband is to provide **love**. *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her"* (Eph. 5:25). This is to be a sacrificial love, putting the wife before self. Finally, fathers are to provide **training and admonition** for their children. *"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (Eph. 6:4).

**The Wife/Mother.** First, the wife is to be in **subjection** to her husband. *"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord"* (Eph. 5:22). This makes sense, seeing that God has given the role of leadership to the husband. Subjection is a hard word for many people to accept, yet all of us practice subjection in various aspects of our lives. The simplest meaning of "submit" is to yield, to give the right of way to another. When we drive our cars into an intersection bearing a "yield" sign, we understand that we are to allow the other vehicles to have the right of way. This does not mean that the people in the other car are more important than we are, but that this is the role we are to play in order for traffic to move smoothly and safely. The same thing is true in the home. The wife is not inferior. She just has a different role.

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Second, the wife is to **take care of the home**. *“That they 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). This does not mean that she is a slave. Neither does it mean that she is forbidden by God to work outside the home, or that she should not expect her husband and children to help around the house. However, it does mean that she is responsible for the functioning of her home.

**The Children.** *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth’”* (Eph. 6:1-3). Children are not out of the scope of God’s authority. God expects them to **obey** and **honor** their parents. If they can learn to do so, they have cultivated a trait (respecting authority) that will serve them well throughout life.

Children honor their parents by the way they talk and act. *“A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him”* (Prov. 17:25). One’s behavior is a reflection of the home in which he was raised. Children also honor their parents by listening to them and respecting their wishes. Grown children continue to honor their parents by caring for them in their old age (1 Tim. 5:4, 16).

The teaching of the Bible concerning marriage and the home may continue to be ridiculed and rejected in favor of modern trends, but I ask one question: How well are these non-Biblical ideas working for us? Many homes today are broken and dysfunctional. God created the home. He knows how it works best.

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**L**ife is full of lessons, some of which are extremely useful. Here are five that are critical: (1) Always remember that you are unique . . . just like everybody else. (2) If at first you don’t succeed, skydiving is not for you. (3) There are two theories to arguing with a woman — neither one works. (4) A closed mouth gathers no foot. (5) Some days you’re the bug, and some days you’re the windshield.

**H**ate, like acid, damages the vessel in which it is stored as well as the one on whom it is poured!

**B**e courageous! Stand firmly for the truth! It will encourage others to have stiffer spines!

**T**he most valuable things we know (& can have) can not be bought with money.

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# How We Worship God Is Significant

By Joe R. Price

The Heritage Church of Christ in Forth Worth, TXs will begin using instruments of music in its Sunday evening services this fall (see <http://tinyurl.com/kyopzrd>). This is occurring more frequently as churches depart ever farther from the ancient order revealed in the Scriptures.

An explanation of their decision given by their pulpit minister is posted on their website. The statement reads in part, “So, wondering what is worship at Heritage like? First, understand a few basic truths. The goal of our worship is to bring us into the presence of God. We come together as God’s people and worship Him. The “how” of our worship is insignificant, the “who” we worship and praise is the most significant!” (Ibid)

True worship does indeed involve coming into the presence of God, being defined as an act of offering reverent adoration and homage to God (Gen. 22:5; Psa. 5:7; 95:6; 99:5, 9). Yet, all worship is not approved by God, as Jesus pointedly applied Isaiah to the religious hypocrites of His day (Matt. 15:7-9). It is not enough to say we are worshiping God in order for God to be pleased (cf. the Samaritans, who “worshiped on this mountain”, but not with God’s approval, Jn. 4:20-22). Worship that pleases God “must” be in “spirit and truth” (Jn. 4:23-24). Therefore, we rightly conclude that true worshipers offer homage to God that is both sanctioned by His word of truth and expressed from a heart of reverent awe and adoration. It is significant *how* we worship God as well as *why* we approach Him (the Heritage Church of Christ’s statement, notwithstanding).

We gain some insight into their decision to add instrumental music to their worship services when the statement says, “Churches of Christ have a longstanding tradition of a cappella singing” (Ibid). “Church of Christ tradition” is not a Bible concept and belies a sectarian attitude toward the church. Coming before God to worship Him with singing is not based on “Church of Christ tradition”, but on the solid ground of apostolic tradition of Scripture (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 2 Thess. 2:15). The use of instrumental music to worship God was added many centuries after the apostolic age, and is a clear departure from worship in the New Testament (Gal.1:6-9; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Jn. 9).

After giving a nod to tradition, the website statement announces, “Starting this fall we will be adding an instrumental service on Sunday evenings. This will give people a choice of worshiping in an a cappella worship service or an instrumental worship service” (Ibid). Now we understand that worship as

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defined by the Heritage Church of Christ is a matter of personal choice and not a conviction of faith. That is why they say the “how” of our worship is “insignificant”. We would earnestly remind them of Nadab and Abihu, whose “how” displeased God and prompted their death. Not being commanded by God, their “how” failed to approach God in holiness (Lev. 10:1-3).

I emailed John Gann (minister at Heritage) and asked him to explain why they conclude the “how” of worship to be insignificant. His complete reply was, “Thanks for the email. Our web explanation is to give someone a basic understanding of what they will experience at Heritage, not to spark a theological debate.” Either he has no Bible answer or he is unwilling to share it. Either way, his failure to answer speaks volumes (1 Pet. 3:15). God is sinned against when men change His pattern for worship. Claiming “how” God is worshiped is insignificant is of man, not God (Jn. 4:23-24; Mal. 1:6-8).



## ***Keep The Faith***

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***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.***

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**August Birthdays:** The 7th Betty Hinds; The 17th Annette Kellett; The 21st R. T. Pike.

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Southaven, MS 38671

**This Bulletin** is a weekly publication of the  
Valley Grove Church Of Christ, Southaven, MS

**Sunday**

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship . . . . . 10:30 A.M.

Worship . . . . . 5:00 P.M.

**Wednesday**

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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