



“Proverbs for the Marriage and Family.” Today’s message: “The Role of Parents.” Now, I want to say this, because we’re spending so much time talking about children...and I don’t mean to NOT address families who don’t have children, or perhaps you have reached the point that you’re beyond child-rearing ages...but, we’re spending time here on the family and children because that’s a ton of who our church family is and these things needs to be addressed. Thank you for your understanding. Well, I want to remind you of a statistic from last week.

**75% of the time you will spend with your kids will be over by the time your children turn 12 years of age, 90% by the time they turn 18.**

Bottom line: Time is short and I think perhaps that fact became very evident to Billy Graham in Los Angeles in 1949, where he was leading a massive crusade. See the screens:



He was scheduled to run the crusade for 3 wks but it was extended to eight wks.



During the crusade. People flooded into the tent, which held 6,000+ people.



Billy Graham spoke to over 350,000 people over those 2 mos. That included movie stars, professional athletes, politicians and many other celebrities. It was considered the largest revival meeting since the revivals of Evangelist Billy Sunday. The tent was packed each night.



Over 3,000 people made professions of faith during the 8-week event. About 7 weeks in, Billy's sister-in-law and her husband came to the crusade and brought a baby with them. Billy squeezed in some time to see them. He saw the little baby and commented, "She's so cute, who's little girl is she?" His sister-in-law's mouth dropped open in surprise, "Why Billy, she's yours. She's yours Billy. It's Anne!" Billy Graham had been away from home so long he didn't recognize his own daughter. That night he resolved that the crusade would end and he would go home.

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Brothers and sisters, the words spoken by Billy Graham almost 75 years ago still ring true. those word: it's time to go home! It's time we value the home again. No...not the house...not the stuff in the house...not the cars parked in the driveway in front of the house...no...the people under the roof of the house. It's time to go home! This morning, my prayer is that we will turn our hearts toward home. You've turned to Proverbs 14

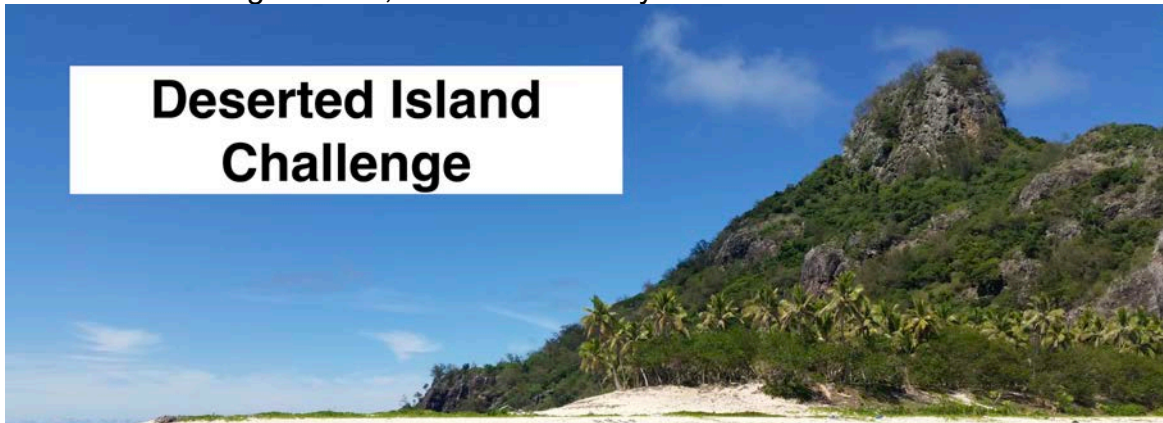
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### **Proverbs 14:26**

**<sup>26</sup> In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.**

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A refuge. Now before we go further, I want to remind you of: we're still on our Deserted Island...



taking the Deserted Island Challenge. We only have the Bible to guide our thinking. And I also say this because this message is another tough one.

Turn in your Bibles now **to Genesis 3**, the BEGINNING. We're going to see God's divine design for the home and the roles in the home. **I'll set the scene**...God had made Adam from the ground...He saw he was lonely and He created Eve from Adam's rib and God brought her to him to be his helper. We've already seen this in our past messages. But they chose to sin...and when they did...they were cursed because of their disobedience. NEVER FORGET, God, as a Father, disciplines His children for sin...there are consequences for sin...He didn't let them get away with it...

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**Genesis 3:16**

**<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to<sup>[a]</sup> your husband, but he shall rule over you."**

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She would be cursed with pain in childbearing...in the home, and her desire would be for her husband...instead of her own authority...power and control. So, can you see, from the beginning...in the Garden of Eden...in a perfect place...Eve was taking charge...she was at the forbidden tree chatting with Satan, but I blame Adam, because he was with her. The roles were reversed... **Go back to verse 6 and I'll show you.**

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**Genesis 3:6**

**<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,<sup>[b]</sup> she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.**

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And there you have it...role reversal in paradise. The man, Adam, should have been leading and protecting his wife Eve from Satn...but instead, he was following behind as she led...and women have had to fight this desire ever since. God said: "Your desire will be for your husband." **Now go back to verse 17** and we'll see where man is cursed.

**Genesis 3:17-19**

**<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."**

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So, what have we seen? Men were cursed in the realm and sphere of work... They will have to work by the sweat of their brow to provide, and the women were cursed with pain in childbearing and their desire is to be for their husband...that's in the realm of the home. Now, you may not like any of that...but, that's the Word of God on our deserted Island. And Scripture is the final authority!

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Now think with me about our country. from our founding up and until WWII the roles of men and women were fairly established...being that the men worked in the field or factory, and the women took care of the home. Now hold on...before you think I want to push all the women back into the kitchen...barefoot and pregnant...just listen for a moment with the backdrop of Genesis and the roles that were established there in mind. This is a bit of a history lesson.

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You see, something happened during WWII that changed us as a nation... The men were off at war fighting and that sent the women to the factories. Here's a picture from 1942, women assembling a wing for a plane.



They had to do that...we were at war and the factories would have sat idle without the ladies. And this brought us:



“Rosie the Riveter.” And it’s true: Women CAN DO IT and they did it...they kept the country going until the men returned from war...yet, many women stayed in the factories because the money was good; and thus, **the DINC was born**...the Dual Income family was born. And for women...they began to feel the weight of what is called: the **DOUBLE CURSE**. They were now bearing the responsibility inside and outside of the home.

Now listen...see if you think this might be true: if you’re here today and you’re over 50, you likely had grandparents where the man worked outside the home and the lady worked inside the home. But, if you’re under 30, you’re more apt to have had two grandparents who both worked outside the home. Again, that’s not universal...that’s just an observation.

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And so you say, “Yea...what’s the problem?” Well, perhaps for your family, nothing at all...all may be well. But, I ask this...in general as a nation: As the country became more and more prosperous and wealthy coming out of WWII did our morality improve in lockstep with the increase in money, or

has the morality gone down, since WWII? I don't think anyone would argue that we've gotten more immoral. Now is that just some strange coincidence? In my opinion it's not.

Think with me. In the 1960's we took God and the Bible out of the schools, and we started to see the abandonment of the home by men...and that's increased to the point that today: 1 out of every 4 children in America grow up without a father in the home...and the cold hard truth is...as families...we're so busy now...our lives are so harried with work and all the kids activities, we're to the point that we're seldom even home. So, who's doing the teaching and training...the equipping and nurturing? I'll tell you: the schools, the daycares, the TV and the phones.

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Now, this is where we begin to fidget, and I understand it...because it goes against the grain of the culture. But we're talking about roles in the home and how God designed the home from the beginning...men and women...male and female...how were they cursed...we're using the Bible as our guide. So, I want to ask you: What's the goal of your home? Well, the Bible tells us:

**Malachi 2:15**

<sup>15</sup> Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union?<sup>[1]</sup> And what was the one God<sup>[a]</sup> seeking?<sup>[1]</sup> Godly offspring. So guard yourselves<sup>[1]</sup> in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

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God wants godly offspring. In other words, the goal is to raise children to follow the Lord. Now, can this be done with both parents working outside the home? Sure, it can! But, it's just not easy and it takes a tremendous amount of intentionality in how we use our time. Because we only have 168 hours in a week. And for a two-income family...most of the time you have with your kids is between about 5 pm and their bedtime each day. That's roughly 24 hours per week. It's longer on the weekend...but, that's when everything else has to get done...household chores, mowing grass, grocery shopping, fixing meals, ball games. Can it be done?

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The woman in Proverbs 31 was able to buy and sell and trade and care for her home... This is an amazing woman.

**Proverbs 31:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. <sup>14</sup> She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. <sup>15</sup> She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. <sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. <sup>17</sup> She dresses herself<sup>[a]</sup> with strength and makes her arms strong. <sup>18</sup> She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.

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**Jump down to verse 27:**

**Proverbs 31:27-31**

<sup>27</sup> She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. <sup>28</sup> Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: <sup>29</sup> "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. <sup>31</sup> Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

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That's an amazing lady and she was able to do a tremendous amount of juggling...but, I would argue that her home came first. Verse 27 said: "She looked well to the ways of her household and didn't eat the bread of idleness." She wasn't lazy. Truth is: you can stay at home and become idle. Lazy.

Some women...who are at home...don't find joy in being home... They look for fulfillment in social media...they binge watch...even though they're home...they're not engaged. Being at home is more

than just physically being there...it's being there emotionally as well...finding fulfillment and joy in being there... Because if you aren't, you're really defeating the purpose, right?

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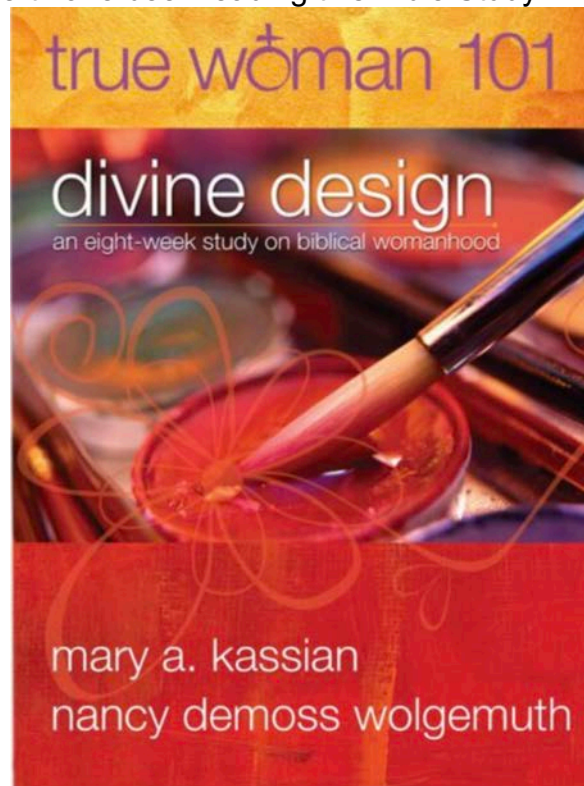
Paul in writing to Titus was giving instructions of how to teach and to train...men to the men and women to the women. Watch these instructions:

**Titus 2:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> But as for you, teach what accords with sound<sup>[a]</sup> doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. <sup>3</sup> Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, <sup>4</sup> and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. <sup>6</sup> Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

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My wife, Pam and Amy Tolbert have been leading this Bible Study...



"Divine Design, True Woman 101, A Study of Biblical Womanhood," and that study is exactly what we've been talking about. Again...it's so interesting how the Lord sets this up for us as a Church. Listen, the point is this: it's not wrong for a young lady to want to have children and to stay home and raise them. It's okay if you ask a little girl what she wants to be when she grows up and she says: a mom. That's okay.

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**Let me show you another couple of verses from the Proverbs:**

**Proverbs 17:1**

<sup>1</sup> Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting<sup>[a]</sup> with strife.

**Proverbs 15:16**

<sup>16</sup> Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it.

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For so many, we have feasting with strife, treasure with trouble. We were singing "The Blessing," which is about passing blessings down to our children...but are we? Are those blessings just

quantifiable in dollars and cents? Of course not. We know the real blessings of life have nothing to do with money. See the screens:

**“People are more important than things.”**

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Church family have we been suckered by the American Dream? As Christians are we seeking the American Dream and the stuff of that dream, and perhaps we're not even aware of it? Like this:



**Does fish know that he's wet?** Does he? Hey. Do we know that we're wet? Wet with the culture...the American Dream. The rat-race! Climbing the proverbial ladder...just to find that it's been leaning against the wrong wall. Listen carefully, like it or not, we're all swimming in a world system that pushes us to pursue the stuff instead of the people living in our homes. This makes it very hard to seek the **confidence of the Lord:**

**Proverbs 14:26**

**<sup>26</sup>In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.**

**No strong** confidence in the Lord...**no refuge** for the children. Again, that means we put His kingdom first. We're back to Matthew 6:33. Have you posted that verse on your bathroom mirrors yet? is one of my favorite Psalms. A psalm of Solomon. He wrote two psalms: Psalm 72 and this one:

**Psalm 127:1-5**

**<sup>1</sup>Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. <sup>2</sup>It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. <sup>3</sup>Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. <sup>4</sup>Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children<sup>[a]</sup> of one's youth. <sup>5</sup>Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.<sup>[b]</sup>**

Indeed, “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” Pam and I were living this. Early on our marriage: she was teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade at CC Wright Elementary school, and at the same time, getting her Master's Degree in Education from ASU... I was Assistant Treasurer and Manager of the Credit Department at Ithaca Industries and we had Katy-she was two years old. Monetarily, we had everything we could want...but, otherwise we had pretty much NOTHING. We were totally stressed out. Pam came home one evening and said: “Kevin the tail is wagging the



dog...it's out of control. What are we doing?" I didn't have a good answer. "We're living life! We're just doing what everybody else is doing." And that was the problem. I was a fish...



swimming in the American Dream, and I didn't know I was immersed in it.

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She said, "**Kevin, I want to come home?**" I said: "What?? Are you out of your mind? We're set up for 2 incomes, dear." She said, "The Lord will provide and I'm willing to cut back. Kevin, I can't keep doing this...we can't keep doing this. We have no life." I reluctantly and **not happily**, agreed. So, she finished out the school year and we tightened our belts, BIG TIME. We lived strictly on a budget. No wavering. But, we never missed a meal or paying a bill.

By that fall, the Lord provided a promotion for me...it covered about 1/2 of what we needed...and we realized we didn't actually need the other 1/2 because that 1/2 wasn't really needs...but, just wants. It's amazing how much we think we need...because we live our lives in the fish tank, wet with the American Dream and keeping up with the Joneses.

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Was it easy? No. Some said that Pam was throwing her career away. She told people, "No, I want to use my education on my kids." Others said, "I made her do it." I didn't make her do it. I didn't want her to do it. It was her idea.

**You know what: Pam has always had more faith than me.** She still does. Yeah, we did it and we've never looked back. Now hear me...our way is not the right way...or is it necessarily supposed to be your way. I bring it up, because Pam and I just weren't talking about it back then. We were just living life: you know...you graduate high school, go to college, get a degree, get a job, get married, have kids, you start having stuff that requires two people to pay for. And I get this: in our Economy...with Biden-omics...it's hard to make it even on two incomes.

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Truth is: in my own life, I'll need to work till I'm 70...but that's okay, because I don't see retirement in the bible...that's a westernized invention of the last 70 years. But, it's okay to retire, but I like what Ken Anderson said to me one time. He said, "I just re-tire." That's put on new tires and keep serving the Lord until He calls me home.

Yes, the Lord provided...and yes...Pam and I had more kids...we adopted 2 children...which required the cashing out of both mine and Pam's 401-k. Pam did side jobs...much like the Proverbs 31 woman...she didn't sell fabric, she sold Mary Kay Cosmetics for a while...we also ran a little side cleaning business...and still do... we took the kids with us and they learned how to clean and work. That's how we paid for birthdays and vacations and miscellaneous. We made it work. You see, there's tradeoff for everything. You can't have it all. That's lie! Something has to give!

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Maybe today you need to think about your situation. What might need to change. Just consider it. Maybe begin again...with the end in mind. The end result, what you want. For many families...the end result is seldom discussed. It's just the here and now. It's, can we can make the payment? We just go through life running as hard as we can. Busy, busy, busy.

**Psalm 127:1a**

**<sup>1</sup> Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.**

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We need to let the Lord build the house. I close with this: Here's a picture of Billy Graham and Ruth when Ned, their youngest, was born:



What a wonderful family, and it's interesting though, but not unexpected...in a 2008 magazine interview, Billy was 89 years old and was asked: Do you have any regrets as you look back on your life? He responded: "Yes, I do. I regret that I didn't spend more time with my family; I'm sure Ruth and the children paid a heavy price for all the times I was absent. I always tell younger evangelists not to feel like they have to accept every invitation they get, or be absent from home so much." Church family, let's not be absent from home so much. Let's turn our hearts toward home.

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