What God Demands Of Males/Husbands/Fathers and Sons

Intro:

A. Our subject this morning is focused on What God Demands of Men as Husbands/Fathers and Sons. I am sure that many a lesson has been preached on Godly Homes - but these next three lessons has been the aim of myself all this week is on the INDIVIDUAL.

1. Deuteronomy 6:1–9 (NKJV) - 1 “Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

a. 3 Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’ 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

b. 7 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. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

2. It is my experience that lessons on the home focus on what makes homes “Christian - ie following the principles of Christ” - however, it never gets down to the personal relationship each part has with God.

3. That is going to change here -I know it is father’s day - but the questions I have to ask are important—“are you practicing Idolatry” when it comes to molding God demands with regards to Men, Husbands and Fathers into what society sees as good, what we think or even what this congregation believes and teaches - or are we the Man that God demands of us?.

a. What we are going to focus on is recognizing that God has demands of Men and Women - since He created us - He has the right to demand that we function as He wants.

B. So here is the question - “Are you A Godly Man, Son, Husband and Father?”

1. We are going to examine HOW TO BE ONE - Let us begin this journey together NOW!

C. It does not take a genius to see that there is an URGENT NEED with regards to this since the family is under attack ---- many of the ads these days make men out to be really “dummies” - cartoons that are seen as the norm today ridicule the function of the man ---- and there is a strong tendency of the feminization of the man.

1. The “FAMILY,” as God designed it. (Genesis 2:18-24) (NKJV) - 18 And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.), is under attack

a. Radical feminism, LGBTQ advocates; radical individualism; men & women living together but not married; view of fornication & adultery, etc.

b. Divorce epidemic, broken homes, disconnected families, abuse, drugs, etc.
2. There is an **Urgent need “NOW” To return to God’s purpose & guidance:**
   a. **Husband / Father - Loves, Provides, Leads, & Trains** – *(Eph 5:25,28; 1 Pet. 3:7; Eph 6:4; 1 Tim. 5:8)*
      (1) **Ephesians 5:25** *(NKJV)* - 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
      (2) **Ephesians 5:28** *(NKJV)* - 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.
      (3) **1 Peter 3:7** *(NKJV)* - 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.
      (4) **Ephesians 6:4** *(NKJV)* - 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
      (5) **1 Timothy 5:8** *(NKJV)* - 8 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.
   b. **Wife / Mother - Submits willingly to husband; Guides & keeps the house** *(Eph 5:22-24; 1 Pet. 3:1-6; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Tim 5:14; Prov 31)*
      (1) **Ephesians 5:22-24** *(NKJV)* - 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
      (2) **1 Peter 3:1-6** *(NKJV)* - 1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.
      (3) **Titus 2:4-5** *(NKJV)* - 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
      (4) **1 Timothy 5:14** *(NKJV)* - 14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
   c. **Children - Respect & obey their parents** – *(Eph. 6:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:1-5)*
      (1) **Ephesians 6:1-4** *(NKJV)* - 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
      (2) **2 Timothy 3:1-5** *(NKJV)* - 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unhateful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

3. **Families are comprised of imperfect people** - every family has challenges, problems, dilemmas, & changes that need to be overcome. . . .
   a. When God comes first in the heart of every family member - the family will be as God designed
D. And that is going to be our focus over the next three lessons - looking at the individual members of the family - and noticing what God demands of me as a Male, and Female in the various roles and functions He has established when He created US!

II. What God Demands Of Me As A Male/Husband/Father/Son ---- (now ladies don’t switch off here because you must be aware of what God demands!

A. As a male/husband/father & Son it goes without saying that God demands that we must be GODLY

1. 1 Timothy 6:6 (NKJV) - 6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
2. 1 Timothy 6:11 (NKJV) - 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

B. In Order to obtain this we must “Flee These Things”

1. The context — doctrine not “according to godliness” …
   a. Pride - (3-5), … which leads to “disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings …”
   b. Greed - (6-10), … “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”
   c. Sexual sin — 1 Thess 4:3,7; Eph 5:3; Mat 5:27-30 …

   (1) 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NKJV) - 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;
   (2) 1 Thessalonians 4:7 (NKJV) - 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.
   (3) Ephesians 5:3 (NKJV) - 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;
   (4) Matthew 5:27-30 (NKJV) - 27 ‘You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

d. Anger — “A put off all these anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.” - Eph 4:26, 31; 5:8; Ps 37:8; Pr 17:14; 19:19; 29:22; Ga. 5:15; James 1:20; 3:14–16

   (1) Ephesians 4:26 (NKJV) - 26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
   (2) Ephesians 4:31 (NKJV) - 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.
   (3) Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV) - 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
   (4) Psalm 37:8 (NKJV) - 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm.

   (5) Proverbs 17:14 (NKJV) - 14 The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.
   (6) Proverbs 19:19 (NKJV) - 19 A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.
   (7) Proverbs 29:22 (NKJV) - 22 An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression.
   (8) Galatians 5:15 (NKJV) - 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!
(9) **James 1:20** (NKJV) - 20 For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

(10) **James 3:14-16** (NKJV) - 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

e. **Selfishness** — **Phil 2:3; Jam 3:14-16**

(1) **Philippians 2:3** (NKJV) - 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

(2) **James 3:14-16** (NKJV) - 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

f. **Deceit** — **Eph 4:25; Pr. 6:17; 12:19, 22; Col. 3:9**

(1) **Ephesians 4:25** (NKJV) - 25 Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

(2) **Proverbs 6:17** (NKJV) - 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood,

(3) **Proverbs 12:19** (NKJV) - 19 The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment.

(4) **Proverbs 12:22** (NKJV) - 22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

(5) **Colossians 3:9** (NKJV) - 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

2. This is not a suggestion - when God says “RUN/FLEE” we better take heed.....

C. But in context the male/husband/father and Son must - **Pursue Righteousness**

1. **To be faithful to God** — **Eccl. 12:12,13; Mk 12:29-31; Heb 13:4**

   a. **Ecclesiastes 12:12** (NKJV) - 12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.

   (1) **Ecclesiastes 12:13** (NKJV) - 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all.

   b. **Mark 12:29-31** (NKJV) - 29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

   c. **Hebrews 13:4** (NKJV) - 4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

2. **To be faithful to marriage covenant** — **Num 30:2; Ecc 5:4-6; Prov 15:4; Mat 5:27-30**

   a. **Numbers 30:2** (NKJV) - 2 If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

   b. **Ecclesiastes 5:4-6** (NKJV) - 4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed— 5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. 6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands?

   c. **Proverbs 15:4** (NKJV) - 4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

   d. **Matthew 5:27-30** (NKJV) - 27 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already
committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

3. To be the head — Gen 3:16; Eph 5:23; 1 Cor 11:3
   a. Genesis 3:16 (NKJV) - 16 To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”
   b. Ephesians 5:23 (NKJV) - 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.
   c. 1 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV) - 3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

4. To love wife — Eph 5:25,28; Col 3:19; 1 Pet 3:7
   a. Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV) - 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her;
   b. Ephesians 5:28 (NKJV) - 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.
   c. Colossians 3:19 (NKJV) - 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.
   d. 1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV) - 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

5. To train children — Eph 6:4; Gen 18:19; Prov 22:6
   a. Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV) - 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
   b. Genesis 18:19 (NKJV) - 19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”
   c. Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) - 6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

D. Must Pursue GODLINESS
   a. Genesis 18:19 (NKJV) - 19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”
   b. 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (NKJV) - 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” 17 Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.” 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
   c. 1 Peter 1:13-15 (NKJV) - 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but
as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

d. **Hebrews 12:14-17** (NKJV) - 14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

2. **An attitude longing to please God** — **Col. 1:9-12; 1 Thess 4:1**
   a. **Colossians 1:9-12** (NKJV) - 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.
   b. **1 Thessalonians 4:1** (NKJV) - 1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

3. **Determine to love** — **Mk 12:29-31; Eph 5:25,28; 1 Cor. 13:4-8**
   a. **Mark 12:29-31** (NKJV) - 29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
   b. **Ephesians 5:25** (NKJV) - 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
   c. **Ephesians 5:28** (NKJV) - 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.
   d. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** (NKJV) - 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

4. **Develop godly character** — **Mat 5:3-10; Eph. 5:1; Gal. 5:22,23**
   a. **Matthew 5:3-10** (NKJV) - 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
   b. **Ephesians 5:1** (NKJV) - 1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.
   c. **Galatians 5:22** (NKJV) - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

   (1) **Galatians 5:23** (NKJV) - 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

E. **To Pursue FAITH**

1. **Increase your knowledge** — **Rom 10:17; 2 Pet 3:18**
a. **Romans 10:17** (NKJV) - 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

b. **2 Peter 3:18** (NKJV) - 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

2. Being a doer of the word — **Jam 1:22-25**
   a. **James 1:22-25** (NKJV) - 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

3. Adding to your faith — **2 Pet 1:5-11**
   a. **2 Peter 1:5-11** (NKJV) - 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

F. To Pursue LOVE
1. **Sacrificial** — **Ephesians 5:25** (NKJV) - 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

2. **Value** — **Ephesians 5:26-28** (NKJV) - 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

3. **Supportive** — **Ephesians 4:2** (NKJV) - 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

4. **Understanding** — **1 Peter 3:7** (NKJV) - 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.
   a. **Honor** — **1 Pet 3:7**
   b. **Protect** — **1 Pet 3:7**

5. **Affection** — **1 Cor 7:3; Prov 5:15-19**
   a. **1 Corinthians 7:3** (NKJV) - 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.
   b. **Proverbs 5:15-19** (NKJV) - 15 Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. 16 Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. 19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.
   c. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** (NKJV) - 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

G. To Pursue PATIENCE
1. Endurance —
2. Steadfastness —
3. Not quick to anger —
4. Understanding —
5. Sustaining —
6. Long suffering —
   a. Colossians 3:12–13 (NKJV) - 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

H. To PURSUE GENTLENESS
1. 1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV) - 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.
   a. Humility —
   b. Meekness —
   c. Self control —
   d. Understanding —
   (1) 1 Cor 4:21; 2 Cor 10:1; Gal 5:23; 6:1; Eph 4:2; Col 3:12; 2 Tim 2:25; Tit 3:2
      a. 1 Corinthians 4:21 (NKJV) - 21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?
      b. 2 Corinthians 10:1 (NKJV) - 1 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ— who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.
      c. Galatians 5:23 (NKJV) - 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
      d. Galatians 6:1 (NKJV) - 1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
      e. Ephesians 4:2 (NKJV) - 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
      f. Colossians 3:12 (NKJV) - 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
      g. 2 Timothy 2:25 (NKJV) - 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,
      h. Titus 3:2 (NKJV) - 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

III. In Conclusion:
   A. 1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV) - 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
      1. Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV) - 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
      2. Colossians 3:19–21 (NKJV) - 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them, … 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.
   B. This is what God demands of you His first in Creation of the human race, and His first in the creation of the Home.
C. The question you must ask yourself here today - have I molded my life to conform to God or have I created an Idol of what I believe God should expect from me?
1. Remember “He is the Potter - I am the Clay” ---- not the other way round.