

Everyone Is an Adult Child

*GOD DOESN'T TELL CHILDREN TO LOVE THEIR PARENTS—
GOD TELLS CHILDREN TO LEAVE THEIR PARENTS*



marriage: a taste of **heaven** series

PATSY RAE DAWSON

SPEAKING GOD'S BEAUTIFUL LANGUAGE OF LOVE

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God Tells Children to Leave Their Parents*

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PATSY RAE DAWSON LLC
TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH THE POWER OF THE SCRIPTURES

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Marriage: A Taste of Heaven

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2 Corinthians 13:5: "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!"

Emergency

If you think you may have a medical or safety emergency, call 911 immediately. Most of the numbers below respond 24/7.

- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: 1-866-331-9474
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text "LISTEN" to 741-741

Never Argue with Your Gut Instincts!

If your gut is telling you something is wrong, probably 95% of the time something is wrong. Don't take a chance on being in the other 5%. Many women who are murdered had a gut feeling they were in danger, but talked themselves out of it. Go to a women's shelter or other qualified health professional and let a counselor help you analyze what is going on in your life. They are trained. You and your church leaders probably aren't.

Introduction

Everyone Is an Adult Child

"I talked to the elders in our church about how my husband called from his girlfriend's house to say he wouldn't be home that night. They told me to leave him alone and let him come to his senses. That was months ago. And he just keeps getting worse." Shirley, one of my marriage students, sat across from me at my dining room table.

She continued, "I kicked him out. I'm determined he won't move back until he gets help for this problem."

"Is he doing anything to get help?"

"Yes. We're both going to a sexual addiction support group. But they're all sexual addicts and women addicts are in the group. I don't think it's enough. I want to find out what you recommend."

"You need to study for yourself. I suggest you start with my classes *Challenges in Marriage: What to Do When Sin Inhibits Love* so you won't be naive about how sin grows. It'll teach you how to set boundaries."

"Okay. I also need help with my in-laws. They're interfering, and he gets a lot of comfort from their sympathy – especially my mother-in-law. She is extremely prudish. She said and did things while my husband was growing up.... She's part of the problem now in trying to resolve this. She and his whole family blame me for kicking him out and insisting he get help before I let him come home. I don't know how to deal with her."

"I'm not surprised by that. This problem nearly always starts in childhood. He's going to have to re-educate his mind about what healthy sex is like. He needs to learn what his parents should have taught him about sex starting when he was a little boy. Then he can move on up to being a loving adult sexually. The place to start is with my Song of Solomon cassette tapes." (These classes are no longer available. The material is updated in my newest book *The Song of Solomon Love Triangle: God's Soulmating and Lovemaking Guide for a Lifetime of Passionate Sex Plus Solomon's Siren Song & Stacey's Story – A Sexless Marriage*.)

"I'm going to give you the assignment of listening to the *Challenges in Marriage* classes so you have that basic information on how to fight fair and deal with sin. Then let's talk again in two weeks. In the meantime, I'll put some scriptures together for dealing with your in-laws."

Interestingly, the mother-in-law called me soon after this conversation. She wanted to know if they should charge Shirley with sin against them for not taking their/her advice. I explained that her relationship with Shirley was not as important as Shirley's marriage to their son. The couple didn't need two issues going at the same time. I suggested she and her husband back off and let Shirley and her son get the help they needed to try to save their marriage. Once that was accomplished, they could work on repairing their relationship with their daughter-in-law. To the mother-in-law's credit, she accepted my advice and let the couple take care of their own marriage problems.

The basic outline for this eReport is what I put together for Shirley in 1995. Over the years I've shared it many times to help Christians unload childish problem-solving techniques they've hung on to from their childhood and adolescence. Other times they wanted to know what their

attitude should be toward an overbearing parent or in-law like Shirley did. Sometimes they asked if they were sinning because they felt relief instead of grief when an abusive parent or in-law died.

Three Stages of Human Development

Notice the three stages of normal development:

First 20 Years—Grow Up Physically—Home Promotes Growth

Parents greatly influence their young children. When they turn into teenagers, they re-examine everything. They no longer just accept things because Mom and Dad say so. They must see it for themselves intellectually and often need to feel it emotionally. Teens are susceptible to peer pressure. They must be willing to learn from their parents for parents to teach them during this period of transition from parental love to romantic love.

Second 20 Years—Grow Up Emotionally—Marriage Promotes Growth

Both the husband and wife exert tremendous power and influence over what the other becomes during the first decades of marriage. Just one mate facing the normal problems of life squarely can help the other to grow up. However, both mates must be willing to grow and develop during this time of learning how to get along and enjoy living with each other. Drug abuse, verbal and physical abuse, and adultery all arrest the emotional maturing process. Likewise, just one mate withholding intellectual, emotional, and sexual love from the other stunts the growth of both the husband and the wife.

Third 20 Years—Reap the Benefits in Problem-Solving Abilities and Productivity

The Jews often didn't consider a man grown until he was 40. If the first forty years have been used to mature physically, intellectually, emotionally, and sexually, the third 20 years is when God expects his people to benefit from their wisdom gained the hard way. Older men become qualified to act as elders in the church. Older women serve as excellent teachers of young women. At this time, men and women are prepared to be their most productive for serving God, helping others, and enjoying their families and grandchildren.

However, if the first forty years were not spent growing up, this last stage often finds desperate husbands and wives emotionally exhausted. Many have lost their ability to continue to deal with the spouse's sins, especially sins in the bedroom. They literally fight for emotional survival. Some deal with their unhappiness by becoming work alcoholics or pursuing a mid-life affair. That's why it's so important to genuinely solve problems during the first phase of marriage. Sweeping problems under the rug or tolerating them leads to disaster.

The Bible Is a Book of Balances

When left to his own devices, mankind goes to extremes. In speaking of Christians maturing and growing, the Apostle Paul addresses childish extremes as being "tossed to and fro" by current philosophies:

Ephesians 4:14-15: As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the

head, even Christ.”

In contrast to mankind’s extreme inventions, the Bible is a book of balances. If we don’t know the balancing qualities of a given subject, we don’t yet have all the truth about it.

Psalm 119:160:

*The sum of Your word is truth,
And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.*

Examples:

- The wife’s subjection is balanced with her reverence for her husband.
- A wife’s reverence is balanced with honesty.
- The husband’s leadership is balanced with loving, nourishing, and cherishing his wife as his own body.
- The elders’ rule is balanced with congregational meetings of men and women to hear the people.
- All realms of subjection (to the government, employer, other Christians, husband, and parents) are balanced with God’s word—God’s word always overrides the human institution.
- Church discipline is balanced by competent witnesses and love.
- Work is balanced with leisure.
- Giving to the needy is balanced by them doing for themselves what they can—their work.
- Bearing the burdens of other Christians is balanced by them accepting personal responsibility—not being emotional leeches.
- Faith is balanced with works.
- Forgiving others is balanced by seeing fruit meet for repentance.
- Parents teaching their children about sex is balanced by setting an example of loving each other.
- Sex is balanced with the union of the minds.
- Sex is balanced with purity.
- Not acting sexually immoral is balanced by knowing how to enjoy sexual love.
- Passionate sex is balanced by intellectual, emotional, and sexual love.
- Divorce is balanced by understanding God’s desire for us to love passionate sex.

A whole lesson could be presented on each one of these balancing qualities. That is not the purpose of this short eReport. Instead, we are just noticing that if we don’t understand the balancing characteristics of various religious beliefs, then we probably don’t have the full truth—the sum of God’s word. And more than likely, we’re binding where God does not.

The Balancing Characteristics of the Parent-Child Relationship

In this eReport, you’ll discover these balancing characteristics:

Chapter 1: Three Responsibilities God Gives Parents in Raising Their Children:

Love Balanced with Discipline and Example

Chapter 2: Three Attitudes God Expects Children to Have Toward Their Parents:

Learn From, Obey, and Honor Balanced With Personal Responsibility

Chapter 3: Three Blessings God Bestows on Children Who Grow Up in Unloving Homes:

Sin in the Home Balanced With God’s Love and Protection

Chapter 4: Three Ways to Grow Up After Surviving an Unloving Home of Origin:

The Past Balanced With the Present and the Future

Chapter 1

Three Responsibilities God Gives Parents in Raising Their Children: Love Balanced with Discipline and Example

Oscar Miles says, “If there’s such a thing as the golden age of parenting, it’s when your children are too old to need babysitters and too young to drive. That’s the golden age, and it doesn’t last very long. That’s a good time. But there are difficulties and responsibilities even during the golden age. There never comes a time when parents don’t have that serious responsibility.”

Unfortunately, many parents don’t enjoy their children at any age as society swings from one extreme to the other in the realm of raising children. For example, the Victorians disciplined harshly with the razor strop without love. The child was to be seen and not heard. Dr. Benjamin Spock witnessed the damage that philosophy did and went to the other extreme. He promoted love without discipline. He instructed parents to ask their children “why” they did something to the point of ridiculousness.

The Victorian Era produced emotionally and sexually cold grandparents and parents. Today we live with the new Me Generation thanks to all the parents who followed Dr. Spock’s guidance. Both extremes produce defective humans without natural affection. God gives parents three basic responsibilities – love balanced with discipline and example.

1. Parents Are to Love Their Children

Ideally, both fathers and mothers should have learned how to love in their home of origin. But often the teaching and example are lacking. Rather than imitating their own parents, God expects adult children to learn for themselves how to love their children.

A Mother Is to Learn to Love Her Children

In this case, God instructs older women to teach the young mothers to love their children:

Titus 2:3-4: “Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.”

“Love” comes from the Greek word *phileo* and expresses an affectionate, emotional, and physical love. A woman manifests it by patting, hugging, squeezing, and kissing her loved one. Matthew 26:48 demonstrates this by using a form of *phileo* for the word “kiss” when Judas betrayed Jesus.

A Father Is to Imitate God’s Love for His Children

God doesn’t leave fathers out. He uses the example of a father who delights in his child to describe his own love for us. Notice the balance of affectionate love with discipline in both

God's relationship with us and a father's bond with his children:

Proverbs 3:12:

*"For whom the LORD loves He reproveth,
Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*

"Loves" is the same word used throughout the Song of Solomon and means "to have affection for (sexually or otherwise) (Strong 9).

"Delights" means "to be pleased with; specifically to satisfy a debt:--(be) accept (-able), accomplish, set affection, approve, consent with, delight (self), enjoy, (be, have a) favour (-able), like, observe, pardon, (be, have, take) please (-ure), reconcile self" (Strong 523).

Thus, the father shows his love much the same way the mother does, with hugs, kisses, and his hand on the child's head or shoulder.

Parents Are to Model God's Love

God describes his own love for us by referring to a loving father in the above passage. Then in Isaiah 66:10-13, God uses a nursing mother who carries her child on her hip and plays with him on her knee to describe his love for Israel. God wants our homes to be refuges of physical demonstrations of love for our children.

Lack of Parental Love Leads to Atheism

Many churches lament that attendance by young people is decreasing by alarming rates. At the same time, the U.S. Census Bureau supports the claim that atheism is on the rise (2012). However, the Census Bureau doesn't attempt to discover the reason apathy and unbelief are growing in the United States.

That job falls to the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C. that compares the statistics with their own surveys and current writings about the data. In "'Nones' on the Rise," the center evaluated the impact on politics of people who say, "None," when asked about their religious affiliation.

"The overwhelming majority [74%] of the 'nones' were brought up in a religious tradition." The nones expressed concern that "religious organizations are too concerned with money and power, too focused on rules, and too involved in politics." Too focused on rules was later explained as "judgmental, homophobic, and hypocritical" (10/9/2012).

Young people have legitimate doubts and reject organized religion as too "judgmental and hypocritical" for a basic reason. Our children are denouncing God because of the hypocrisy of their parents and churches who preach love while failing to practice love in their own homes (adapted from *The Song of Solomon Love Triangle* 21-22).

2. Parents Are to Discipline and Instruct Their Children

Notice how physical discipline is balanced with talking:

Ephesians 6:4: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

The mother's and the father's love and discipline balance each other. Loving discipline never abuses the children. Instead, it recognizes the unique differences of each child and searches for loving ways to train the child rather than lashing out in anger or cruelty. As a result, both parents work together as a marvelous nurturing team:

*Proverb 4:3:
"When I was a son to my father,
Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother."*

*Psalm 127: 3-5:
"Behold, children are a gift of the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.
How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them;
They will not be ashamed
When they speak with their enemies in the gate."*

God Forbids Breaking the Children's Spirit

Paul warns against failure to balance discipline with love in both Ephesians 6:4, "do not provoke your children to anger," and Colossians 3:21, "do not exasperate your children":

Colossians 3:21: Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

"Exasperate" means "to stir up, excite, stimulate in a good sense: 2 Co. ix. 2.... In a bad sense, to provoke: Col. iii. 21" (Thayer 249).

"Lose heart" means "to be disheartened, dispirited, broken in spirit" (Thayer 14).

As a Certified Advance Personality Trainer, I observe this broken spirit often in both young and adult children. Abusive narcissist mothers and fathers often enjoy breaking down their children emotionally. Here are observable signs in young and adult children of having their spirits crushed by bullying parents, siblings, and/or peers:

- Extreme shyness
- Seldom laughs or laughs too much
- Seldom smiles
- Sad eyes or avoids eye contact
- Missing childhood memories
- Watches the parent's face for signs of disapproval
- Apologizes for everything
- People pleaser
- Can't say "No" to parents, peers, or spouse
- Doesn't get mad when should
- Cries all the time or doesn't cry

Screaming and lashing out at children have nothing in common with God's example of balanced parental love and discipline. Such ungodly behavior by a spouse should not be tolerated by the loving parent.

Step Out of Your Pain into Your Children's Pain

I urge parents to step out of their own marital pain of being married to a narcissist and step into their children's pain. You cannot make healthy decisions for yourself and your children until you honestly evaluate the home environment in which you and your children are trying to survive.

I've observed many times that in loving marriages, the mate and children can do some things that in strict analysis are annoying or somewhat improper – but the spouse doesn't even notice. In abusive, unloving marriages the children's and mate's eyes dart to the unloving,

controlling spouse when they accidentally make a minor infraction to see if they are going to be punished. A monster often rages when the family is no longer in a public place.

I've witnessed this fear of an unloving, uncompromising parent in the eyes of many children that society labels "well-behaved." These young children and teenagers are shy, stiff, and void of cheerful humor.

Often, as Christians, we are very naive about recognizing outward signs of inner pain in our children. Stop and look at your children's eyes. If you need to, get out old pictures, and see if you can recognize when the pain began.

Any mother or father who observes abusive behavior toward their children by the other parent is obligated to protect their children. The damage will last a lifetime whether the children become codependent to abusers or turn into narcissistic abusers themselves.

If you do not protect your children, when they grow up, they will blame you. And they may move far away and have infrequent contact with you. You are the adult—the parent. You must step out of your pain and do what is best for your children (adapted from "3 Ways Sexless Marriages Harm Children & What to Do About It" PatsyRaeDawson.com).

3. Parents Are to Portray Marital Love to Their Children

First, Paul admonished husbands to imitate Christ in the way they nourish, cherish, and love their wife. Second, he instructed wives to devote themselves to their husband as the church does Christ. Finally, Paul concluded:

Ephesians 5:31-32: "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

In this lengthy discussion about the mental union of a husband and wife, Paul ended with one of the four references in the New Testament to the one-flesh relationship. This verse is explored in detail in *God's People Make the Best Lovers*. The point in this eReport is that when the children and outsiders look at a husband and wife, they should see and feel amazing marital love that reflects Christ's own love for the church. Sadly, this kind of love is seldom seen in the homes of Christians.

The Bible Teaches Nine Stages of Sex Education

1. Gestation
2. Infancy
3. Childhood
4. Adolescence
5. Courtship
6. Honeymoon Year
7. Middle Years
8. Senior Years
9. Divorce to Protect the Next Generation

We fail in nearly every one of these areas to teach our children and to learn for ourselves about God's marvelous design for expressing and teaching love in our home.

The Song of Solomon Is a Parental Guide for Sex Education

God designed that the first five stages be taught in the home by the parents. This is the

overriding climatic theme of the Song of Solomon—the sex education of the children by the parents. This parental teaching by her mother’s words and example enabled the Shulammitte maiden to see through King Solomon’s infatuation with virgin breasts as he deflowered virgin after virgin—140 at the time of the Song of Solomon. He eventually married 1000 young virgins, and then denounced them all in Ecclesiastes 7:27-29. (For a detailed study of Solomon’s relationship to his wives see *The Song of Solomon Love Triangle: God’s Soulmating and Lovemaking Guide for a Lifetime of Passionate Sex.*)

Thus through proper sex education and parental example in her home, the Shulammitte escaped a disastrous unloving marriage to an emotionally and sexually defective man. She said both she and her Shepherd boyfriend began learning about love and preparing for a wonderful marriage as babies sucking their mother’s breasts:

*Song of Solomon 8:1:
“Oh that you were like a brother to me
Who nursed at my mother’s breasts.”*

She continued her speech to credit her mother with teaching her verbally about sexual love and preparing her for marriage. Because of her mother’s teaching and example, she was looking forward to lovemaking in marriage:

*Song of Solomon 8:2-3:
“I would lead you and bring you
Into the house of my mother, who used to instruct me;
I would give you spiced wine to drink from the juice of my pomegranates.
‘Let his left hand be under my head
And his right hand embrace me.’”*

Then she repeated the theme of the Song of Solomon for the third time to the palace maidens. She begged them to learn the lesson her mother had taught her by both words and example—not to force love, but to allow a true emotional bond to develop before marrying:

*Song of Solomon 8:4:
“I want you to swear, O daughters of Jerusalem,
Do not arouse or awaken my love
Until she pleases.”*

The Song of Solomon climaxes by applying the theme to the parents of future generations of children who should learn how to love and enjoy passionate sex from their parents. To learn more about what God wants us to learn about sexual love from our parents, read *The Song of Solomon Love Triangle: God’s Soulmating and Lovemaking Guide for a Lifetime of Passionate Sex.* It contains Solomon’s Siren Song (to answer speculative questions such as how Solomon might have dealt with losing the girl) and Stacey’s Story—(How One Wife Overcame) A Sexless Marriage.

God Uses the First Three Stages to Describe His Love

In Isaiah 66:7-13, God uses the portrait of a mother experiencing an easy delivery and then nursing, carrying her child on her hip, and fondling the child on her knee to illustrate his own love for the Israelites. The Jews were known for their easy deliveries.

Science now knows that sexual activity during pregnancy bathes both the mother and the fetus with hormones of love. Additionally, it exercises and strengthens the woman’s pelvic floor and muscles which helped the Israelite woman give birth “before she travailed” (verse 7).

Thus, from conception, throughout the pregnancy, and in the birth process, and then when nursing; the baby was bathed in God’s special hormones of love and tranquility.

The greatest gift parents can give their children is to always passionately and openly love each other. The release of the hormones of love between the parents overflows onto the children to create a loving environment for them to thrive in. This prepares the children to leave their parents and to begin a one-flesh relationship of their own.

The parents teach the child with both their words and example the truth about the way a man and a woman live together and love each other. *The Song of Solomon Love Triangle* teaches this lesson through a verse-by-verse study of *God's Soulmating and Lovemaking Guide for a Lifetime of Passionate Sex*.

Biblical Example of a Parent Who Failed

Eli should have talked, disciplined, and modeled passionate marital love for his sons. Instead, he let his sons find their own way in the world. And it cost his children their lives because he neglected his parental duties:

1 Samuel 2:22-25: "Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting. He said to them, "Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people? No, my sons; for the report is not good which I hear the LORD'S people circulating. If one man sins against another, God will mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for the LORD desired to put them to death.

1 Samuel 3:13: "For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them.

Chapter 2

Three Attitudes God Expects Children to Have Toward Their Parents: Learn From, Obey, and Honor Balanced With Personal Responsibility

God uses the examples of loving mothers and fathers to portray his own love for us. And to insure that parents rise to his standard of love, he commands mothers to learn how to love their children. He instructs fathers not to provoke their children to wrath, but to promote love in the home. As the children mature and begin making decisions for themselves, God has different plans for them.

God Nowhere Commands Children to Love Their Parents or In-Laws

Helpless little children totally depend on their parents for food, clothing, shelter, and protection. Thus God commands mothers and father to provide both sustenance and emotional love to help their children grow up into physically and emotionally healthy adults. Many times however, parents are self-absorbed. While they may provide the physical necessities, they not only neglect emotional nourishment, but many also bully and abuse their children.

Children who grow up in loving homes naturally love their parents. But children raised by unloving parents struggle to survive emotionally. Being commanded to love an unloving, abusive parent increases the damage done to children. Children in dysfunctional homes often shut down emotionally just to survive. Some withdraw emotionally in order to continue to love a parent who obviously doesn't love them.

By God not commanding children to love their parents shows that he does not condone parental abuse and neglect of children. And the responsibilities God does give to children continue to help protect their maturing psyche from lingering damage from the mistreatment.

1. Children Are to Learn From Their Parents

Proverbs 6:20-23:

*"My son, observe the commandment of your father
And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;
Bind them continually on your heart;
Tie them around your neck.*

*When you walk about, they will guide you;
When you sleep, they will watch over you;
And when you awake, they will talk to you.*

*For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light;
And reproofs for discipline are the way of life."*

Proverbs, a book of wisdom, is filled with life-saving lessons for children to learn from their parents. For example, Proverbs 1 lists ways that young people succumb to peer pressure from violent companions similar to modern gangs. As a result, they reap calamity throughout their lives.

The father of Proverbs 4 pleads with his son to listen to his words so he can enjoy a long, happy life. He begs him to keep away from those who “eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.”

The father and mother of Proverbs 6 warn about getting into debt similar to the overwhelming credit-card debt common today. They also instruct their child to avoid shiftless companions who give the finger while on the lookout for mischief and evil. Finally, they offer advice about youthful lusts and the dangers that can destroy young lives.

Biblical Example of Learning From Parents

Paul praised Timothy for his sincere faith that was in his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5).

2. Children Are to Obey With Personal Responsibility

Ephesians 6:1: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

“Obey” means “1. properly: of one who on a knock at the door comes to listen who it is; 2. to hearken to a command, i.e. to obey, be obedient unto, submit to” (Thayer 638).

“In the Lord” Limits Obedience

Expressions similar to “in the Lord” are used in every realm of subjection to show the limitation of submission to another person. All authority in the home, work place, government, and the church exists only in the realm of human opinion. Anytime what an authority figure says or does contradicts God’s teaching, God’s word overrides the human dictate. Notice how these similar expressions limit a person’s submission in these realms:

- “Fear God” limits a citizen’s submission to the *government* in 1 Peter 2:14-17.
- “According to the will of God” limits a Christian’s submission to *elders* who are forbidden to “lord it over” other Christians in 1 Peter 5:2-3.
- “In fear of Christ” limits a Christian’s submission to other *Christians* in Ephesians 5:21.
- “As to the Lord” limits an employee’s submission to an *employer* in Ephesians 6:5-8.
- “Fitting in the Lord” limits a wife’s submission to a *husband’s* authority in Colossians 3:18.
- “In the Lord” limits a child’s submission to a *parent’s* authority in Ephesians 6:1.

When leaders follow God’s instructions for guidance of others, they may never get to do what they want. God requires more sacrifice on the part of those in authority than he does from those who submit to them. The mechanics of subjection and leadership are discussed in detail in *God’s People Appreciate Marriage*.

God Gives Children a Free Will

Proverbs 20:11:

*Even small children are known by their actions,
So is their conduct really pure and upright? [NIV]*

“Child” means “a boy [or girl] from the age of infancy to adolescence” (Strong 79).

Our personalities are 60% genetic and 40% nurturing. Characteristics of a child’s genetic personality are observable soon after birth. However, the 40% nurturing can be so harmful that it masks the genetic personality and innate talents. Children as young as 2-years-old often

exhibit the survival characteristics of codependency or bullying narcissism when raised by an unloving, dysfunctional parent.

God Expects Children to Reject Evil Parental Conduct

Instead of commanding blind love of parents, God commands children to reject and expose their parents' evil ways when necessary. And to help children transition through this process, God created hormones that cause adolescents to question everything their parents said and did during their childhood. They watch and reflect on everything their parents do. They are driven to think through life issues and come to their own conclusions. They need facts and intelligent reasons for their beliefs and actions.

It's easy to focus on negatives during this time. Children may need their parents to share picture albums and remind them of special events. While they are trying to move away from parental love to romantic love, they continue to need words and displays of love from their parents.

Likewise, during a woman's pregnancies, her hormones cause her to examine her parents' childrearing techniques. The new mother often determines to do some things very differently. Many new mothers choose to become the kind of parent they wish they'd had. This gives each new generation a chance to correct the sins in the home of their forefathers.

God wants adult children to use this time of questioning to look at their own life and the bad habits and sins they may have learned from their parents.

Leviticus 26:40-42: "If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me – I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies – or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land."

In this verse, God acknowledges that generally children grow up to be a narcissist like the unloving parent or an enabler like the codependent parent if they don't stop to examine their home of origin with the intelligence of an adult. Regardless of how dysfunctional a child's home was, the adult child has a choice. God holds children responsible for doing what is right regardless of how their parents raised them. Everyone has a personal responsibility for the kind of adult he or she becomes.

Many parental iniquities can be traced back several generations. Here is a partial list of parental sins that need to be confessed and rejected:

- Narcissism
- Histrionic sexual seductiveness
- Unnatural affection and sexless marriages – failure to love the other parent and children
- Spouse and child emotional and physical abuse
- Financial neglect
- Enabling or codependency
- Alcoholism and drug abuse
- Sexual addiction
- Adulteries
- Incest

Overcoming the impact of these issues in the home may require reading self-help books and getting professional counseling.

An Unloving Father Usually Has Unloving Children

Many like to quote Malachi 2:16 where God says, “I hate divorce.” But they neglect the beginning of the chapter that explains God’s hatred of divorce and the effect on the children:

Malachi 2:3: “Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it.”

God began the discussion by condemning the Israelites’ spiritual leaders telling them he’s going to rebuke their unloving children. Then he is going to spread garbage on the faces of the children’s hypocritical priest fathers. Why all this condemnation of evil fathers and their children? Because they were divorcing the wives of their youth to marry foreign women.

In other words, these husbands didn’t love their wife. And since they didn’t love their wife, they didn’t know how to balance love and discipline in raising their children. As a result, the children grew up to be just as unloving as their father. God rejected both the fathers and their children who grew up to be just like them.

An Unloving Mother Usually Has an Unloving Daughter

Ezekiel 16:44-46: “The LORD said, ‘People will use this proverb about you, Jerusalem: “Like mother, like daughter.” You really are your mother's daughter. She detested her husband and her children. You are like your sisters, who hated their husbands and their children. You and your sister cities had a Hittite mother and an Amorite father.’”

God draws a metaphor from real life – children usually grow up to be like their parents. In this case, an unloving mother can’t teach her daughter how to love her own husband and children. The sin of narcissistic self-love over love of family is passed down through the generations until someone rises up and says, “Enough! I’m going to treat my family differently.”

Children Are Often Negatively Affected With Just One Unloving Parent

In both of the above examples, the unloving parent sinned against a loving spouse. The treacherous priests of Malachi 2 rejected the wife of their youth. God does not lump the wife into his condemnation of the fathers.

In the second example, the unloving mother rejected God as her husband. Even though the children had a loving father, the daughters still followed their mother. They grew up to hate their husband and their children.

A Wicked Father Can Have a Righteous Son

Ezekiel 18:14-18: “Now behold, he [wicked father] has a son who has observed all his father’s sins which he committed, and observing does not do likewise.... [He] executes My ordinances, and walks in My statutes; he will not die for his father’s iniquity, he will surely live. As for his father, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother and did what was not good among his people, behold, he will die for his iniquity.

This verse illustrates that children watch their parents. Then they decide to either imitate the parent or reject the parent’s behavior. In this instance, the child rejects the parent’s sin.

In a family of several children with an unloving parent, a mixture of good and evil children often results. Children who copy a parent’s narcissism learn from an expert how to manipulate

and deceive others. Likewise, children who emulate a codependent parent study how to quietly control evil rather than confronting it.

In such homes, codependent and narcissistic siblings may play off each other their whole lifetime. Sometimes a middle child or two escapes much of the abuse and grows up to be somewhat emotionally healthy. If the other children overcome their upbringing, it takes hard study and effort.

A Righteous Father Can Have a Wicked Son

Ezekiel 18:9-11a: "If he [a man] walks in My statutes and My ordinances so as to deal faithfully – he is righteous and will surely live," declares the Lord GOD. Then he may have a violent son who sheds blood and who does any of these things to a brother (though he himself did not do any of these things)."

This verse emphasizes the freewill choice of everyone. Growing up with loving parents who do everything right is no guarantee the children will follow their example. God does not force anyone to love him or to love his or her family. We all make that choice for ourselves regardless of the home we grew up in.

The Righteous Rejoice When the Wicked Die

*Proverbs 11:10:
"When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices,
And when the wicked perish, there is joyful shouting."*

In Ezekiel 18:23 God says he takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He wants them to repent and change their ways. And that is what every child of unloving, abusive parents wants—to finally enjoy the love of the parent without natural affection. But without true repentance, the abuse does not stop when the child becomes an adult, it just changes form.

After a lifetime of trying to love and deal with a defective unloving parent or in-law, when death finally comes, so does relief. The adult children experience happiness when the drama and abuse of their spirit ceases. They may also find freedom from worrying about their own children suffering the consequences of trying to love a grandparent caught up in them self and without true love of family.

Biblical Example of Perpetuating a Dysfunctional Family

God preserved the Song of Solomon for over 3000 years to teach us how to promote healthy love in the home. Solomon's great wisdom and home of origin provide many lessons for us:

Solomon did not grow up in a loving home as did the Shulammitte and the Shepherd. His father and mother, David and Bathsheba, began marriage on the basis of sensuous lust and murder. After watching Bathsheba bathing David committed adultery with her. Later when she discovered she was pregnant, he killed her husband to cover up his sin. After they married, God took the life of their first child as punishment for their wickedness. Then Bathsheba, one of David's many wives, gave birth to Solomon (2 Samuel 11:2-12:24).

The scriptures record jealousy, fighting, and rape among David's children by his different wives. On two occasions, a son killed a brother. In fact, Solomon killed one of his brothers whom he thought was trying to steal his throne. Although Solomon was probably breastfed by either his mother or a wet nurse, nursing alone cannot replace an

emotional void in the home. As a result of not seeing his parents set an example of love and devotion to each other and growing up in a home filled with malicious sibling rivalry, Solomon never learned how to build an emotional relationship with any woman (Dawson, *Song of Solomon* 260-1).

You can read more about Solomon's sexual addiction, fetish for virgin breasts, and how he stayed locked in junior-high-quality sex for a lifetime in *The Song of Solomon Love Triangle*. Chapter 13: "Solomon Never Had Great Sex With 1000 Virgins" summarizes the lessons we can learn from Solomon. It brings together the Song of Solomon account and the King's own conclusions in Ecclesiastes about his failure as both a husband and a king.

3. Children Are to Honor Their Parents

Ephesians 6:2-3: "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

"Honor" means "1. to estimate, to fix the value; mid. To fix the value of something belonging to one's self. 2. to honor, to have in honor, to revere, venerate" (Thayer 624).

Honor Includes Caregiving for Elderly Parents

1 Timothy 5:3-4: "Honor widows who are widows indeed; but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God."

"Honor" is the same word used in Ephesians 6:2-3 commanding children to honor their parents. Here they are told to honor their widowed mothers and grandmothers by providing for them if they are destitute—widows indeed. Notice the seriousness of not providing for impoverished family members:

1 Timothy 5:8: "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."

Parents provide for their children when they are young and unable to take care of themselves. Adult children are to return the obligation for both good and bad elderly parents when they are unable to provide and take care of themselves.

Honor Includes Respect for the Office of Parenthood

1 Peter 2:17: "Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king."

"Honor" is the same word used in Ephesians 6:2 and 1 Timothy 5:3 and adds an additional element to honoring parents—respect for both good and bad parents. Children are to honor their parents for the physical relationship of having given birth and raising them. God expects adult children to show respect in the way they talk to and associate with their parents. We can see this in the parallel commands to honor people and the king.

Honor Does Not Imply Love

"Love" for the brethren in 1 Peter 2:17 is the Greek *agapeo*. It differs from the Greek *phileo* that mothers are to learn to feel for their husband and children (Titus 2:4-5) and the emotional love fathers are to imitate God with in loving their children (Proverbs 3:12). Thayer explains the difference between the two Greek words:

As to the distinction between *agapan* and *philein*: the former, by virtue of its connection with *agamai*, properly denotes a love founded in admiration, veneration, esteem, like the Lt. *diligere*, to be kindly disposed to one, wish one well; but *philein* denotes an inclination prompted by sense and emotion (Thayer 653).

In my book *God's People Appreciate Marriage*, I discuss the differences between these words in detail. Here's a brief overview:

Phileo expresses an affectionate, emotional, and physical love which a woman manifests by patting, hugging, squeezing, and kissing her loved one. Matthew 26:48 demonstrates this by using a form of *phileo* for the word "kiss" when Judas betrayed Jesus. On the other hand, *agape* results from love based primarily on an intellectual estimation of the needs of the loved one.

Peter gives an example of the differences between *phileo* and *agape* by using them together in 1 Peter 1:22: "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, [*philadelphian*—combination of *phileo* and brother] fervently love [*agapesate*—form of *agape*] one another from the heart." Again, Peter uses these two root words together in 1 Peter 5:14: "Greet one another with a kiss [*philemati*—form of *phileo*] of love [*agape*]" (Dawson, *Appreciate Marriage* 210).

Certainly, honoring ones parents includes *agape* love—an intelligent estimation of their needs and acting in their best interest. But God's command to honor ones parents without an obligation to emotionally love them helps protect children who grew up in a dysfunctional home. Children who were neglected or abused won't feel a healthy attachment to an unloving parent. God does not command or shame children into forcing themselves to love a parent without natural affection.

Jesus Drew Boundaries Around Caring for Elderly Parents

Matthew 8:21-22: "Another of the disciples said to Him, 'Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.'"

Both times "dead" comes from the same Greek word that is used in both a literal and a tropical sense. It means "1. properly one that has breathed his last, lifeless, 2. tropically [spiritually dead i.e.] destitute of a life that recognizes and is devoted to God, because given up to trespasses and sins; inactive as respects doing right" (Thayer 423-4).

As we've seen, not all parents accept their responsibilities to love, discipline, and model God's love in the home. Unloving parents seldom allow their children to grow up and create their own independent home. Their parental neglect and abuse frequently carries over onto the adult children unless something causes the parents to regroup and grow up unto love for others. Often the abuse is more smothering and damaging in adulthood than when growing up.

Many adult children instinctively create physical boundaries by moving across the country. The distance lets them get away from the constant demanding of entitlement and stirring up of strife. Others enforce boundaries in a local environment. In these instances, the adult children must work to overcome the bad influence of their home of origin. To do that, many establish harsh boundaries with the evilness of their childhood.

Jesus said, "Follow Me, and allow the [spiritually] dead to bury their own [physical] dead." In other words, "Put first serving God and growing up into love for your own family. Leave the drama to your siblings who've chosen to imitate the unloving parent." But practically speaking, siblings who've adopted the parent's narcissism are going to target the good and codependent children to carry the burden of keeping the parent happy.

Adult children of narcissistic parents must learn how to balance honor with honesty and

self-protection instead of perpetuating the lies and manipulations of self-absorbed parents and siblings. Many times, they choose to separate both emotionally and physically from the parent to heal their wounds. They need space to begin growing up into God's love for their own family.

Biblical Example of Not Honoring Parents

Jesus criticized the Jews for using a ruse to set aside God's command to honor their parents by providing for them in their old age:

Mark 7:10-13: "For Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH'; but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

God Created Adult Children to Leave Their Parents

After God created Eve and presented her to Adam, the first husband declared his delight in the mate God designed especially for him. He said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh," then he concluded:

Genesis 2:24: "For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

Jesus quoted this passage in Matthew 19:5 from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament.

"Leave" means "leave behind, depart from, leave, bid to remain, forsake, leave to oneself by ceasing to care for it, abandon, leave in the lurch, cause to be left over, reserve, leave remaining, disregard" (Thayer 333).

"Cleave" means "glue together, cement, join or fasten firmly together, join oneself to, cleave to, give oneself steadfastly to, labor for" (Thayer 353).

"One flesh" is used four times in the New Testament. Each passage reveals a different aspect of being one flesh and enjoying a wonderful marital relationship. The purpose of this eReport is to explore the adult child/parent relationship, not the marriage union. For an in-depth understanding of God's genius in creating them male and female, please see Chapter 5: "Woman, A Helper Meet for Man" in *God's People Appreciate Marriage*. To understand the complete nature of the one-flesh bond, see Chapter 13: "The Secret of Becoming One Flesh" in *God's People Make the Best Lovers*.

We have no choice regarding who our parents are—or how they treated us growing up. But we do have a choice in what kind of adult children we become. How wonderful it is that God does not require us to love evil mothers and fathers, but gives us the right to withdraw emotionally to heal. It is our job to work at healing so we can model God's love for our own families.

And so it is that God's plan for adult children is to leave their parents and establish their own home. Once we have children, we take on the responsibilities of parents. Our job is to balance love and discipline while modeling marital love. In this way, we create an environment that makes it easy for our children to grow up and love God just as we do. In this way we stop passing on the sins of our forefathers.

Chapter 3

Three Blessings God Bestows on Children From Unloving Homes: Sin in the Home Balanced With God's Love and Protection

Our greatest spiritual battles are usually fought in the home in dealing with sin by family members. This is where the real tests of our spirituality take place—in the home:

Matthew 10:34-37: "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

God created Adam and Eve and desired for them to live an idyllic life. He wanted them to mirror the way Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and he worked together to design and create the world. He especially wanted them to model his love in the way they treated each other and their children. But God gave Adam and Eve a freewill choice just as he did our parents and as he does us.

He doesn't force anyone to love him or each other. He understands that many mothers and fathers make bad choices for themselves and their children. In his great love for mankind, God bestows three blessings on children who grow up in unloving homes.

1. God Provides Refuge When Parents Forsake the Child

Psalm 27:10-11:

*"For [When – KJV; Though--NIV] my father and my mother have forsaken me,
But the LORD will take me up.
Teach me Your way, O LORD,
And lead me in a level path
Because of my foes."*

"For, When, or Though" is "a principle particle [the full form of the prepositional prefix] indicating causal relations of all kinds, antecedent or consequent" (Strong 55).

"Forsaken," a primary root, means "to loosen, i.e. relinquish, permit, etc..... [It is sometimes translated] leave (destitute, off), refuse" (Strong 86).

"Take up," a primary root, means "to gather for any purpose; hence to receive, take away" (Strong 15).

"Teach," a primary root, means "properly to flow as water (i.e. to rain); transitively [transitive verb taking a direct object] to lay or throw (especially an arrow, i.e. to shoot); figuratively to point out (as if by aiming the finger), to teach.... [It is sometimes translated] direct, inform, instruct" (Strong 52).

"Your way" means "a road (as trodden); figuratively a course of life or mode of action" (Strong 31).

"Lead," a primary root, means "to guide; by implication to transport (into exile, or as

colonists):--bestow, bring, govern, guide, lead (forth), put, straiten" (Strong 77).

"Level" means "a level, i.e. a plain (often used as a proper name of certain districts); figuratively concord: also straightness, i.e. (figuratively) justice (sometimes justly):--equity, even place, plain, right (-eously), (made) straight, uprightness" (Strong 65).

In this psalm, David describes his fearless trust in God and confidence in the resurrection of the righteous. We have no indication David's parents ever forsook him. Instead, David imagines the worst calamity that could strike him down—his father and mother forsaking him. Yet if that devastating earthly event ever happened to him, he knew God's reaction to his misery.

David knew that children can experience no greater pain than to be unloved and forsaken by their parents. They never really get over an unloving parent's rejection no matter how long they live. Many make unwise marital choices in their search for the missing parental love in their life.

David counters that pain with, "The Lord will take me up." Then he opens his heart to learn God's ways—to be receptive to God's teaching. When we've grown up in a narcissistic home, we have much to learn from God about how to love our family and others.

Narcissistic parents often dote on their infants and toddlers. But as the children mature and become independent, the unloving parent resents caring for them. The self-absorbed mothers and fathers view their children as an extension of themselves without rights to personal interests or a life of their own. In therapy, these adult children often describe anger and bitterness along with feelings of emotional and physical abandonment—being unloved and forsaken by a parent.

Sadly, unlike David who begged God to teach and lead him in the right way of life, many today refuse to learn God's way of loving self and others. Instead, they are afraid to risk the chance of further rejection by their mate. In ignorance, to protect their fragile egos, they close up their emotions and withhold love from their mate and children. In this way, they perpetuate their dysfunctional home of origin. God cannot rescue anyone from an unloving home of origin who refuses to embrace his way.

David knew that even if our parents are unfaithful, God is always faithful in loving us and teaching us how to love our self and others.

2. God Catches the Tears of the Child

Psalm 56:8:

"You [God] keep track of all my sorrows [wanderings – KJV].

You have collected all my tears in your bottle.

You have recorded each one in your book."

(New Living Translation)

This is another psalm of David expressing his fear when the Philistines seized him in Gath. Read the definitions of the words and let them paint a visual picture in your mind of God's empathy and love for us when we suffer from someone's mistreatment.

"Keep track," a primary root, means "properly to score with a mark as a tally or record, i.e. (by implication) to inscribe, and also to enumerate; intensively to recount, i.e. celebrate" (Strong 84).

"Sorrows" or "wanderings" comes from a primary root that means "to nod, i.e. waver; figuratively to wander, flee, disappear; also (from shaking the head in sympathy), to console, deplore, or (from tossing the head in scorn) taunt:--bemoan, flee, get, mourn, make to move, take pity" (Strong 77).

"Tears" means "weeping:--tears" (Strong 31)."

"Bottle" comes from "an unused root of uncertain significance; a (skin or leather) bag (for

fluids):--bottle” (Strong 75).

“Book” means “properly writing (the art or a document); by implication a book:--bill, book, evidence, a letter, register, scroll” (Strong 84).

In this psalm, David said that God kept track of all his sorrows in two ways. First, God preserved his tears in a bottle so he could actually see David’s pain. But God didn’t stop at just seeing David’s pain. Second, God recorded David’s pain in his book so he wouldn’t forget it. In Malachi God talks about recording good things about his people in his book:

Malachi 3:16: “Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who esteem His name.”

We know David “feared the Lord and esteemed His name.” God recorded both David’s acts of obedience and the sins against David in his book. The Apostle John refers to God’s books:

Revelation 20:12: “And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

God knows exactly how his people suffer at the hands of others, including their parents. And when adult children remain faithful, God catches their tears in his bottle and records their sorrows and faithfulness in his book. God knows what our lives are like here on earth, and he cares. He offers us comfort in our sorrows.

3. God Holds the Child Responsible for His Own Actions—Not His Parents’ Choices

Throughout the Bible, God makes his love for children clear. For example, he warns that he holds everyone, including mothers and fathers, accountable for how they treat little children:

Matthew 18:6: “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

But God also holds the children accountable for their own actions—not their parents’ choices.

Ezek. 18:19-20: “Yet you say, ‘Why should the son not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity?’ When the son has practiced justice and righteousness and has observed all My statutes and done them, he shall surely live. The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

This is the same principle we saw earlier where a righteous father can have a wicked son. And a wicked parent can have a righteous child. No matter what kind of home a child grew up in, God holds the child accountable for his or her own choices—not the parent’s sins. God balances sin in the home with his love and protection along with the child’s freewill ability to make his own choices.

God’s view of suffering children

1. He gives them refuge.
2. He teaches them how to love and live righteously.
3. He catches their tears.

4. He records the deeds against them.
5. He holds them responsible only for their own choices.

Biblical Example of Solomon's Freewill

Before King David died, he asked God to give his son Solomon a perfect heart to keep God's commandments (1 Chronicles 29:19). But God didn't take away Solomon's freewill. Obedience without the freedom to choose means nothing. We'd be like a vacuum cleaner that sucks up dirt when you turn it on and quits sucking dirt when you unplug it. In other words, without choices, we'd be like deluxe-model robots that do only what they're programmed to do.

Thus when Solomon asked for wisdom after David's death, God reminded Solomon of his accountability to him in the choices he made. If he obeyed God of his own freewill, then God promised Solomon he would give him riches, honor, and a long life (1 Kings 3:13). However, Solomon refused to keep his heart perfect before God (1 Kings 11:4).

We often assume Solomon asked for all encompassing wisdom, but he asked for wisdom in a specific area—in ruling over God's people, stating that he was but a little child. In addition, God gave him wisdom beyond what he asked for regarding trees, animals, birds, creeping things, and fish. He was a walking encyclopedia. Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:29-34).

Solomon's limited God-given wisdom did not take away his personal responsibility to obey God. In the end, God was very angry with Solomon for his disobedience in pursuing many foreign wives. He took away Solomon's wealth, long life, and kingdom (1 Kings 11:4, 9-13, 33, 38, 42-43; 2 Chronicles 9:31). *The Song of Solomon Love Triangle* discusses these details of Solomon's life in Chapter 13: "Solomon Never Had Great Sex with 1000 Virgins."

Chapter 4

Three Ways to Grow Up After Surviving an Unloving Home of Origin: The Past Balanced With the Present and the Future

We are children forever. What happened in our childhood lasts forever. That doesn't mean we can't make corrections to overcome mistakes we make in our childhood. Or that we can't correct mistakes our parents made in our childhood or even continue to make in our adulthood. It means we need to examine our childhood through adult eyes with God's word as our guide.

The Apostle Paul had much work to do to balance his past with the present and the future as he declared:

Philippians 3:13: "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead."

"Forgetting" means "to forget; in the sense of neglecting, no longer caring for, forgotten, given over to oblivion, i.e. uncared for" (Thayer 240).

"Reaching forward" means "to stretch out to or towards; to stretch (one's self) forward to with indication of the direction" (Thayer 230).

The definitions of both "forgetting" and "reaching forward" illustrate deliberate action on Paul's part. Although we say, "Time helps heal wounds," the passage of time won't make much difference unless we put effort into cleansing and doctoring our survival wounds.

1. Imitate Paul Who Forgot What He Did to Others

Paul had to forget the past to reach for the present. But apparently, he didn't blot out how badly he had treated others, because sometimes he wrote about his terrible offenses:

1 Timothy 1:12-14: "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service; even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus."

"Acted ignorantly" means "a. to be ignorant, not to know, b. not to understand, c. to err, sin through mistake, spoken mildly of those who are not high-handed or willful transgressors" (Thayer 8).

Paul was a "violent aggressor" who agreed with the stoning of Stephen and then "began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison" (Acts 7:59-8:3).

Paul not only remembered and confessed his own sins, but also those of his forefathers.

Paul Also Confessed the Sins of His Forefathers

Although Paul gloried in his Israelite heritage, as a Christian he confessed the sins of his upbringing:

Philippians 3:4-6: "Although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless."

Notice that Paul rejected his impressive lineage and profession as a Pharisee in addition to his zeal for persecuting and killing Christians.

Paul Was Shown Mercy Because He Acted Ignorantly

Paul was shown mercy because he "acted ignorantly." In studying spouse abuse and sexless marriages, I've made the application to the three types of sin:

Jude 22-23: "[Type 1] And have mercy on some, who are doubting; [Type 2] save others, snatching them out of the fire; and [Type 3] on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh."

We are to have mercy on Type 1 "who are doubting," or as Paul was "acting ignorantly." Paul did a lot of horrible things through his ignorance that cost innocent Christians their lives. He thought he was serving God when in reality he was thwarting God's purpose. But when he learned the truth, he immediately changed. He was not addicted to his sin. He did not enjoy persecuting and killing Christians.

Part of what helped Paul forget his past was the knowledge that God had extended mercy to him and had forgiven him. Paul's heart was still tender and he could learn from God. Although Paul remembered his sinful deeds and reminded Christians of them, he forgot them in the sense that he moved forward to become someone God could "put into service" in converting others to Christ.

Paul Allowed God to Put Him into Service

1 Timothy 1:12-13: "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service; even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor."

"Service" refers to "one who executes the commands of another, especially of a master; a servant, attendant, minister." It differs from other Greek words for service in that "it represents the servant in his activity for the work; not in his relation, either servile...or more voluntary" (Thayer 138).

The many epistles of Paul reveal part of his dedication to actively working for God and serving Christians. His transparency of his past allowed him to be used in ways God could not use the self-righteous Jewish leaders. So it's not just a matter of blotting out our past deeds from our minds. It's also moving forward to put our past to work in service to God and others.

Forgiving Ourselves Is the Hardest Part of Forgetting the Past

The hardest part of forgetting the past for those of us with believing, touchable hearts is forgiving ourselves. This is true when others are harmed by our ignorance, especially our children. Many of us are/were totally ignorant about how the deceitful sins of abuse and sexless marriages harm our children emotionally and spiritually until it is too late.

We can find forgiveness of ourselves when we acknowledge and deliberately accept God's mercy knowing that we acted out of ignorance. Then we can use our hard won insights to warn others about the dangers of ignorance of the ways of sin in the home.

2. Imitate Paul Who Forgot What Others Did to Him

Paul not only had to forget the past of what he did to others, but he also had to deal with what others did to him:

2 Corinthians 11:23-27: "...I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes, stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure."

These few verses contain only part of what Paul suffered from the Jews, Christians, thieves, nature, poverty, and so on. Read the next several chapters in 2 Corinthians to understand how much Paul suffered on every level. God even gave him an unspecified thorn in the flesh to help him remain humble.

Paul Chose to Live in the Present

While Paul obviously still remembered the evil deeds he'd committed and the harm done to him through the years, he made a decision to count them as unworthy to rule and ruin his life. He said:

Philippians 3:15-16: "Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained."

Paul sinned in ignorance. Some of those who mistreated him also did so in ignorance. Yet others abused him deliberately. And the hardships of life just kept coming at him time and time again.

But Paul chose not to give in to bitterness and complaining. Although he didn't blot the evil and bad things from his memory, he reached forward to live by that same standard to which growing, studying Christians attain.

When we begin to deal with our childhood and past as an adult, we step out of naivety into Christian street smarts. We acquire insights we could never learn from a book. Those insights open up our understanding of various scriptures and make us more useful in service to God.

Forgetting the Past Is Like the Light of Dawn

Proverbs 4:18:

*But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
That shines brighter and brighter until the full day.*

"The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn" means turning to God for help and wisdom is like watching the sun slowly come up in the morning after a long dark night. When a person gets up early to witness God's glory in the sunrise, the first thing he notices is the birds singing God's praises. The birds might sing their joyful tunes for over an hour before the first rays of light appear.

Moving on from the painful darkness of what others have done to us is somewhat like watching the light of dawn grow as it shines brighter and brighter. As we set our goal of forgetting the past, it gets easier as we work at becoming a more loving person to our family and others. While the evil of the past shapes us and always stays with us, it gives us empathy

and insights into the ways of the world. If we allow it, these unloving deeds will make us be a better person and more useful to God. Like Paul, we can say, "I forget what lies behind and reach forward to what lies ahead."

3. Imitate Paul Who Learned to Love By Putting Away Childish Ways

1 Corinthians 13:11: "When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man I put away CHILDISH THINGS.

"Child" means "a. an infant, little child, b. a minor, not of age, c. metaphorically childish, untaught, unskilled" (Thayer 425).

This famous chapter on the parts of love and how to love others concludes with Paul telling us how he put away childish speaking, understanding, and thinking. As children, we react to the problems in our families with childish reasoning and problem-solving techniques. The seeds for becoming enablers or narcissists are often laid down by the time we're 2-years-old.

Enablers and Narcissists Speak Like Children

"Spoke" means in 1 Corinthians 13:11 "5. To use words in order to declare one's mind and disclose one's thoughts; to speak" (Thayer 368).

If the speaking is childish, it sounds like the ready temper tantrums of a 2-year-old. Or blaming with "Sissy did it" when he's caught in the act. Or saying "That's not fair" when she can't play with another child's toy. These are all verbal manipulations adult narcissists use to intimidate others.

The adult codependent makes use of the 2-year-old's appeasement of anger by apologizing profusely when something is not his or her fault. Or trying to tame the abuser with saying, "I love you" *no matter how you treat me.*

Baby talk loses its cuteness when the 2-year-old starts imitating his or her parents. Then we have adult babies who are still sucking their milk bottle and wearing diapers to contain their messes teaching the next generation how to manipulate and use others. Paul doesn't paint a pretty picture, does he?

Enablers and Narcissists Harbor Childish Self-Images

"Understood" means in 1 Corinthians 13:11 "2. To feel, to think, to have an opinion of one's self, think of one's self, to be modest, not to let one's opinion (though just) of himself exceed the bounds of modesty" (Thayer 658).

Enablers and narcissists represent the opposite extremes of a low self-image. Codependents internalize a lack of self-worth to become people pleasers and try to earn love. The self-absorbed internally puff themselves up to appear better than they believe themselves to be to demand others please them. Both enablers and narcissists keep their self-images in childish survival mode. This prevents them from genuinely solving the normal problems of adulthood.

Enablers and Narcissists Reason Like Children

"Thought" means "1. to reckon, count, compute, calculate, count over. 2. to reckon inwardly, count up or weight the reasons, to deliberate. 3. by reckoning up all the reasons to gather or infer" (Thayer 379).

As parents, we all know we can't make our children understand certain things. They just don't possess the mental ability for complex thinking. In fact, our brains don't mature for really

solving problems until about age 25. Unless we become serious students of life, we may be set in our ways by then – stuck in childish thinking and problem-solving techniques.

Paul Put Away His Baby Things

“Put away” means in 1 Corinthians 13:11 “2. To cause to cease, put an end to, do away with, annul, abolish...to be severed from, separated from, discharged from, loosed from, any one; to terminate all intercourse with one” (Thayer 336).

Without deliberate effort on our part, these childish ways of (1) treating others, (2) viewing ourselves, and (3) thinking about problems carry over into adulthood. They continue to cause misery for our spouse, children, and ourselves unless we determine to grow up intellectually, emotionally, and sexually. At some point, we must examine our home of origin and the attitudes we formed from the way we were raised.

Then we need to act like Paul and put away CHILDISH THINGS. Notice just a few of the marriage problems refusing to grow up leads to:

- Emotional coldness and abuse
- Physical neglect and abuse
- Child neglect, abuse, and incest
- Sexless marriages
- Sexual addiction and adulteries
- Unnatural love for family
- Atheism

For more in-depth information about Paul’s amazing teaching on putting away childish things read my article “The #1 Reason for Marriage Problems and Divorces? Refusing to Grow Up!” You’ll find it at EmbarrassTheAlligator.com/the-1-reason-for-marriage.

Bible Example of Job Forgetting the Past and Embracing Active Service

Remember the story of Job where God bragged to Satan how Job was “a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.” Then Satan slandered Job and said he served God only because God had blessed him. Then God allowed Satan to test Job by taking all his wealth and killing his seven sons and three daughters. When that didn’t cause Job to curse God, Satan then afflicted Job with boils from the top of his head to the bottoms of his feet.

Job didn’t sin until his three friends came to comfort him. They were so shocked by his appearance that they began to grill Job about what sins he must have done to be punished so severely. Wore out from grief, physical pain, and the blame of his friends, Job began to sin with his mouth. He blamed God for his problems and begged to die.

Finally, God debated Job. Job is another example of a man sinning out of ignorance, but his heart was still soft and touchable. Job listened to God and repented.

The happy ending is not how Job got back his wealth and more children to love, but how he found purpose to life again in service. God rebuked his friends who falsely accused him. Then he had Job offer sacrifices for his three friends.

Finally, Job embraced life again by taking care of his flocks and enjoying his grandchildren to four generations. But oh, what a hard journey of conquering doubts and sorting out the purpose of life! Then Job could say:

Job 42:3-5: “Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know...I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees Thee.”

Chapter 5

Some Battles Are Worth Fighting

The greatest spiritual challenges often occur when sin enters the home—they don't come from the ungodly outside Christ. Many sins take place in the home—withholding love, bitterness, judging motives, drunkenness, adultery, deceit, reviling, physical abuse, sexual neglect, incest, abuse of children, and sexual addiction. Covering up the spouse's sins makes a person a partaker with those sins and the resulting secrecy allows the sins to flourish.

When Sin Invades the Home, A Spiritual Battle Must Be Fought

Matthew 10:34–39: “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”

Don't Hide the Sin in the Home

The best advice I can give is, “Get it out into the open and deal with it—don't hide it.” However, sometimes the sinful spouse objects to the mate seeking outside help as Paul advised in Galatians 6:1–2 with “bear one another's burdens.” Often the resistance comes because the husband or wife doesn't want anyone to know about his or her behavior. Jesus said:

John 3:20: “For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”

One wife said every time she threatened to talk to the preacher, her husband, who verbally abused her every day, acted better for several weeks. Then he always went back to his old behavior; and they never really solved the problem because she never followed through on getting help.

Another wife, who flaunted her mental adultery before her husband, quickly left the congregation where they attended when she learned her husband was getting ready to ask witnesses to talk to her. Unfortunately, her husband didn't realize that was a common trick sinners use to avoid exposure and thought he couldn't ask fellow Christians for help.

Expose and Reprove the Sin in Your Home

The following passage in Ephesians proceeds the famous verses where Paul tells husbands to love their wife as their own body as Christ loved the church. These verses also proceed Paul's instructions to wives to submit to their husband as the church does to Christ. Clearly, Paul

directs both husbands and wives to expose and reprove sin in the home rather than submit to it:

Ephesians 5:11-17: Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose [or reprove – NASB footnote] them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed [or reprovved – NASB footnote] by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it [or He – NASB footnote] says,

*“Awake, sleeper,
And arise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”*

Therefore be careful [literally look carefully – NASB footnote] how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most [literally redeeming the time – NASB footnote] of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

“Expose” and “reprove” means “1. to convict, refute, confute, generally with a suggestion of the shame of the person convicted, by conviction to bring to light, to expose. 2. to find fault with, correct; a. by word; to reprehend severely, chide, admonish, reprove; to call to account, show one his fault, demand an explanation; b. by deed; to chasten, punish” (Thayer 202-3).

Notice how strong a word “expose” or “reprove” is. It includes convicting the person of sin by both word and deed. Yes, both husbands who love their wife as their own body and wives who submit to their husband share a responsibility to expose and reprove sin in the home. Love and submission never look the other way when the spouse sins.

Sin Thrives on Secrecy

Sometimes loving husbands and wives resist exposing the sin and getting help because of shame regarding what is happening in the marriage. Other times, they believe the sinner’s attempt to blame them for the spouse’s ungodly behavior. Like the sinner, they are also afraid of the light. By husbands and wives taking the shame and blame upon themselves rather than bringing the problem out into the “light,” they buy into the sinner’s need for secrecy.

Paul warns that when we don’t expose or reprove the sin in our marriage, “we participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness.” Experience shows that when sin in the home is not brought to the light, it will get worse over the years. Secrecy in the home that covers up sin ultimately destroys the marriage and harms everyone it touches – especially the children.

Sin thrives on secrecy. Sin never stagnates. Sin always grows.

Getting the sinful behavior out into the open may be hard and embarrassing, but it can also be a relief to be able to talk about it to others and get their help. If the spouse won’t do his or her part to overcome his or her sin, don’t hide it or make excuses. Get it out into the open and deal with it as sin because the mate is not justified before God. You will be the best friend your mate has by insisting that he or she deal with the sin. Treat it as grievous impenitent sin.

Remove the Sinner From All Spiritual Duties

In the Old Testament, God says exactly what he thinks of the wicked quoting scriptures in service to him:

*Psalm 50:16-21
“But to the wicked God says,
‘What right have you to tell of My statutes
And to take My covenant in your mouth?
‘For you hate discipline,*

*And you cast My words behind you.
'When you see a thief, you are pleased with him,
And you associate with adulterers.
'You let your mouth loose in evil
And your tongue frames deceit.
'You sit and speak against your brother;
You slander your own mother's son.
'These things you have done and I kept silence;
You thought that I was just like you;
I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes.'"*

Likewise, Peter told husbands that God doesn't hear their prayers, no matter how long or beautifully prayed, when they mistreat their wife:

1 Peter 3:7: "You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered."

Part of getting the sin out into the open should be the loving mate insisting that the sinful spouse be removed from all congregational duties because God doesn't accept their service or hear their prayers. When wives watch their husband assume positions of leadership in the church, whether preaching, serving as an elder or deacon, or offering prayers, leading singing, etc., and the wives cover up the sins in the home, they partake of their husband's sins. The example of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 shows God's attitude toward wives who cover up their husband's sins.

Husbands also bear responsibility when they cover up their wife's sins and don't object to her congregation duties, no matter how significant or minor they might be. The great mockery against God that takes place in many congregations during Bible classes and public worship couldn't exist without the silent cooperation of husbands and wives.

Don't Be Fooled by Pious Faces at Church

Many husbands and wives go to great lengths to put on faces of piety when attending public worship when their homes are full of all kinds of evil. Both husbands and wives act lovingly toward their mate and children while around others when their actions at home are very different. How much better for the sinful spouse to remove his or her name from the duty roster, or the loving mate to tell the spiritual leaders about the problem so they can remove the name, while the couple works on overcoming the sins at home.

Study and Prepare for a Spiritual Battle in Your Home

Regardless of what the sexual sinner chooses to do, loving mates need to study for themselves so they can deal properly with sin in the home. Studying helps loving mates identify areas where they may be codependent and submissive to sin, which makes them a partaker in their spouse's abuse of the family. This also allows the sin to grow. Learning God's truths about sexless marriages helps loving mates make healthy decisions for their children and themselves.

In addition, reviewing one's personal responsibility and how to use the peer pressure of the church helps the mate avoid harmful advice from spiritual leaders and other Christians. When the spouse won't study to overcome the sin, the mate needs to study for him or herself.

For suggestions on dealing with sin in the home, read the next section, "Where to From Here?"

Chapter 6

Where to From Here?

You received this free eReport as a gift for participating in the *Sexless Marriages & Without Natural Affection Self-Assessment Reflective Survey*. As you continue with the survey, you'll also received the eReport *Which Describes You? Codependent Enabler, Narcissistic Abuser, or Passionate Lover*. When you complete the survey you'll receive an analysis of your answers.

At that time you may choose to take your problem-solving needs and healing to a whole new level. Get 1-on-1 coaching with me to help transform your life with the power of the scriptures. Choose from three programs.

Ask PatsyRae for 1-on-1 Christian Marriage, Sex, & Divorce Answers

- Take steps for getting your spouse's attention regarding a sexless marriage.
- Create a passionate marriage by sharing vaginal orgasms with your mate.
- Restore your broken masculine or feminine spirit.
- Learn God's many ways of escape from an unloving marriage including, when applicable, divorce that is as honorable as partaking of the Lord's Supper.
- Protect your children.
- More topics...
- For more information... Go to PatsyRaeDawson.com and click on Coaching.



"Patsy's teaching and mentoring are such a radical divergence from everything else available. Imagine going straight to God's word for help and healing in your marriage! What a novel idea!!!!!" (Texas Christian)

I can help you develop insights and skills so you can make healthy, loving decisions for yourself and your children. I will help:

- OPEN YOUR HEART to what true love looks, sounds, tastes, feels, smells, and acts like
- OPEN YOUR EYES to how 24/7 daytime clustered love sins translate into nighttime dead bedrooms
- OPEN YOUR MIND to God's many ways of escape from sexless marriages including divorce

Let me share with you God's many faceted approach to dealing with loveless lives. God doesn't trap anyone in sexless marriages.

Or you can choose a more detailed coaching program.

WHO ARE YOU? Become Your Best Self for Solving Your Bedroom Problems

*Nearly all sexless marriages involve
masked personalities, dirty fighting, and sexual dysfunction.*

Masking is extremely common when either marriage partner grew up in a dysfunctional home or has been trying to survive a sexless marriage for several years. Consequently, one or both of the marriage partners' life is a living lie—and they seldom realize it. One of the first steps in gaining clarity for dealing with a sexless marriage is to take off the mask and become authentic.

Signs of Masking Your Personality & Talents



- Extreme shyness
- Seldom laughs or laughs too much
- Seldom smiles
- Sad eyes
- Missing childhood memories
- People pleaser
- Can't say "No" to parents or spouse
- Doesn't get mad when should
- Cries all the time or doesn't cry

www.PatsyRaeDawson.com

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This coaching program helps you claim your genetic personality and problem-solving talents to move on from codependent enabling and narcissistic abuse by mentally exercising naked. (1 Timothy 4:7—the word “discipline” literally means “exercise naked.”)

1st Month: Discover Your Genetic Personality and Problem-Solving Talents

1. Take off your personality mask worksheets and picture analysis
2. Dig deeper by combining *Wired That Way* with archetypes for enhanced personality discovery
3. Claim your God-given talents worksheet



2nd Month: Set and Maintain Boundaries With Yourself and Others

1. Learn how to change the course of arguments and teach others how to fight fair
2. Examine your home of origin with adult eyes to truly grow up and move on
3. Overcome situational narcissism and codependency (opposite extremes of a lack of self-love)



3rd Month: Learn How to Mentally Exercise Naked for Continued Success

1. Love yourself with affirmation statements from the Song of Solomon
2. Stop toxic self-talk, other-talk, and object-talk
3. Silence and heal the voices from your past with mental exercises (the Bible calls it “exercising naked”)



Options for WHO ARE YOU? include 1 or 3 month programs or a 6-week accelerated version. Go to PatsyRaeDawson.com and click on “Coaching” to learn more about transforming your life from the inside out by discovering who you are and your genetic mode of solving problems.

Customized Christian Marriage, Sex, & Divorce Coaching

This is month-to-month coaching to continue as needed. It often alternates weeks of customized coaching out of my three books and *Challenges in Marriage* audio classes with the *WHO ARE YOU? Program*. Visit PatsyRaeDawson.com and click on “Coaching” to learn more about your options.

What People Say



“You will never know how much respect I have for you, in large part because of your willingness to thumb your nose at conventional wisdom. You put out some unbelievably good stuff. Everything is there.”
(East Coast—
Male Mentoring Client)

Patsy Helped Me Solve a Family Crisis

I worked with Patsy in the “Who Are You?” plan 1 program. I had read the book *Wired that Way* by Marita and Florence Littauer, but I had trouble feeling sure of what my main personality was. I also felt confused about how it could help in real life situations.

After a family crisis that I knew was going to get worse, I contacted Patsy. Now I feel very sure of my personality and am amazed at how much it can help in every area of life. I gained confidence in solving work and family problems. Surprisingly, discovering my genetics is helping me have more fun in life! I didn't realize how much I was suppressing my true personality.

Patsy answered all my questions and wrote a lengthy personal analysis of my personality and life archetypes. It gives me a lot to work on and apply to my life. And I can reference it when I need to.

She did a great job of identifying my strengths and how I could use them and gave me insights into my weaknesses and how to work on those. It's amazing how much easier life can be when we can be our true genetic personalities, as well as understanding other people's personalities! Patsy does an amazing job at analyzing, identifying, and coming up with a plan for you to work on. I highly recommend Patsy if you are ready to discover “Who You Are”!—Female 30ish client

My Wife Asked Me to Move Out

I contacted Patsy after my wife told me to leave. I did her [*Sexless Marriages & Without Natural Affection Self-Assessment Reflective Survey*](#). Together we identified four problem areas I need to work on. We customized the 3-month *Who Are You?* program by adding weekly phone calls to give time to deal with sexual issues. Plus I wanted to accelerate my efforts to save my marriage.

I had done a personality assessment through work. But it didn't take into account my upbringing by drug and alcohol addicted parents. The work profile actually scored me for my masking--not my true genetic personality. Now that I know who I really am, I'm claiming pieces of myself that I had totally buried.

I'm enjoying my children and my wife more than ever. Best of all, I quit walking on eggshells. I used to apologize for everything, even when I didn't know what I was apologizing for just to keep the peace. I don't do that anymore. Now I'm actually solving problems instead of avoiding them.

Patsy told me that I needed to change for me regardless of what my wife did. She warned that my wife might not like the new me. But we fight a whole lot less and our home is happier and calmer. I'm not there yet, but I like how I'm changing "from the inside out" as Patsy says.

I recently recommended this program to a friend who is struggling with severe marriage problems. I told him that learning who I am helped make other things fall into place. And it's given me personal confidence I never had before. Thank you, Patsy, for sharing your wisdom. – Male 30ish client

To Heal the Present You Must Own and Move Beyond Childhood Survival Techniques

Those of us who've overcome life's trials develop organic, unique insights. It's God's way of teaching us through hindsight:

1 Peter 1:6-7: "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

It's also God's way of turning us into unlikely experts:

Hebrews 5:12-14: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

*It's true of Dr. Karyl McBride, the daughter of a narcissistic mother. Perhaps you've read her book *Will I Ever Be Good Enough?* She's continued to uncover narcissistic truths in her newest book *Will I Ever Be Free of You? How to Navigate a High-Conflict Divorce from a Narcissist and Heal Your Family.**

*It's true of Dr. Douglas Weiss, the child of two sexual addicts. His personal struggle with sexual addiction and working with others helped him discover the core problem of sexless marriages. In *Intimacy Anorexia* he exposes the hidden addiction to enjoying inflicting pain by withholding emotional and sexual love.*

It's true of Bonnie Kaye, M.Ed. who unknowingly married a homosexual. She struggled to overcome the assault on her sexual self-image by this dark brutal version of sexless marriages.

She brought gay-straight marriages out of the closet with *The Gay Husband Checklist for Women Who Wonder*. She offers additional wisdom in *Over the Cliff: Gay Husbands in Straight Marriages* and other books.

It's true of me, Patsy Rae Dawson, the daughter of an abusive narcissistic, histrionic mother. I share insights from coaching men and women for over 40 years on the secret of the brain for enjoying vaginal orgasms and dealing with sexless marriages, including my own. That led to increased wisdom and conviction that to heal the present, we must own and move beyond childhood survival techniques to become our authentic self.

Chapter 7

Options for a *Congregational Without Natural Affection Self-Assessment Reflective Survey*



The survey you're participating in is available in a format suitable for your congregation. When your congregation participates in the *Congregational Without Natural Affection Self-Assessment Reflective Survey*, I will set the survey up with a unique URL (web address) for only your members. I will take out identifying questions so that members' answers are truly anonymous even to the elders and other workers who might access the results.

After the survey closes, I will analyze the answers and work up a profile of the marriage problems in your congregation including statistics for the various issues. Your congregation will receive a set of resources for a structured teaching program along with recommendations on how to proceed.

Why Participate in a *Congregational Without Natural Affection Self-Assessment Reflective Survey*

To Help Christians Rise to Their Full Potential in All Areas

Almost every person who participated in the first edition of the *Sexless Marriages Survey* checked that *they never rise to their full potential* in one or more of the following areas:

- 81% as a spouse
- 40% as a parent
- 58% as a Christian
- 23% as an employee or boss

What do you think the statistics will be for your congregation?

Successful corporations would be alarmed by these numbers for their employees and managers. To avoid this problem, they routinely hire outside organizations to conduct surveys to help management increase productivity and lower turnover and burnout. We should care as much about our fellow laborers for the Lord.

Sin in the Home Makes the Congregations' Worship Vain

What goes on in the home doesn't stay there—it's molding future generations. A person's home of origin and marriage impact every aspect of a person's life—especially their faith and religious activities. Additionally, because of hidden problems in the home, God does not accept the spiritual service and prayers of religious leaders who mistreat their wives.

1 Peter 3:7: "You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered."

This is a serious problem for congregations. Many congregations are naive about the sins that go on behind closed doors. This survey gives the elders and spiritual leaders a clear picture of what their members need in the way of teaching and encouragement.

Marital Sins Lead to Atheism and Loss of Members

Many congregations complain about losing their young people. Atheism is on the rise among young people raised by Christian parents who are anything but loving at home. Read my article about the adult child of [parents who acted loving at services](#), but fought on the way home. Scroll down to see the statistics on the rise of atheism. These adult children view their parents as hypocrites who preach love on Sunday morning, but don't even like each other the rest of the time.

The Survey Assesses 19 Clustered Love Sins

The survey you participated in addresses inner-personal relationships in a thorough manner based on 19 clustered love sins from God's word that surround being without natural affection:

2 Timothy 3:1-5: "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be (1) lovers of self, (2) lovers of money, (3) boastful, (4) arrogant, (5) revilers, (6) disobedient to parents, (7) ungrateful, (8) unholy, (9) unloving [without natural affection for family], (10) irreconcilable, (11) malicious gossips, (12) without self-control, (13) brutal, (14) haters of good, (15) treacherous, (16) reckless, (17) conceited, (18) of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (19) holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these."

These 19 clustered love sins expose the common problems found in marriages. The 24/7 abuses of dirty fighting, financial issues, judging motives, childish problem-solving techniques, sexual addiction and adultery, dead bedrooms, child-raising difficulties, etc. revolve around being without natural affection. The survey deals with sensitive, embarrassing topics in a safe way.

Benefits of a Congregational Survey

Here's some advantages of doing an anonymous, privacy-protecting *Congregational Without Natural Affection Self-Assessment Reflective Survey*:

1. Members who are embarrassed by their marriage problems can request help anonymously.
2. If the congregation is studying God's word together regarding marriage and lovemaking, it will create healthy dialogue among the members, which will reinforce change.
3. Members who don't know how to approach their mate about problems or are afraid of backlash can begin to fine tune their understanding of God's word together in a non-threatening way.
4. The participating members will get the three free eReports to begin healing their souls and marriages (*Everyone Is an Adult Child, Which Are You? Codependent Enabler, Narcissistic Abuser, or Passionate Lover, and Analyze Your Answers*)
5. Without knowing everyone's dirty laundry, members can support each other in becoming more loving.
6. Many problems are based on ignorance and growing up in a dysfunctional home of origin. Public teaching and discussion on relevant topics helps dispel this ignorance.
7. Members who put the scriptures into practice and become more loving at home will stand out before others in the congregation as it will show in their demeanor and the way they treat their spouse, children, and others. It will make others want to solve their problems, too.
8. As families become more loving, fewer young people will reject their parents' faith. The greatest cause of skepticism and atheism is growing up in an unloving, sexless home.

9. Ephesians 5:22-31 teaches that our marriages should be a visual aid of the love that Christ has for the church. Working on marriages will enable members to reflect Christ's love.
10. As the congregation becomes more loving, non-Christians will be curious and want to know more. Christians in the first century said, "What marriages those Christians have!"
11. Your members will become better qualified to help others with their problems. Many students have started classes in their neighborhood around their dining room table.
12. Helping families become more loving will help qualify more men and women to serve the congregation in leadership and helping positions.
13. It gives your congregation resources and trains members to offer genuine help to individuals struggling with sexual addiction, a huge underground problem in many congregations.
14. It provides trained members for loving husbands and wives to use as witnesses to apply peer pressure to stubborn spouses who refuse to give up their addiction to intimacy anorexia – being addicted to withholding sex and causing emotional and physical pain. (My experience is that most congregations do more harm than good because of a lack of accurate knowledge about sexual matters.)
15. These are just a few of the ongoing benefits of a congregational survey and study.

Your congregation will never be the same after participating in this groundbreaking survey and following up with much needed study programs to promote love among your members.

Contact me for additional information on setting up a *Congregational Without Natural Affection Survey* and advice on how to approach your leadership at Patsy@PatsyRaeDawson.com.

Thank You for Participating
in the

Sexless Marriages & Without Natural Affection Self-Assessment Reflective Survey

May God forgive us all for our sins of ignorance in the past. And may he continue to open our eyes and hearts to his wonderful teaching and creation of the way of a man with a maid (Proverbs 30:19). Finally, may he bless us all as we strive to serve him in our daily lives and follow his example in loving our mate and children.

To God be the glory forever and ever,
Patsy Rae Dawson

About Patsy Rae Dawson

Patsy Rae Dawson has coached men and women for over 40 years on how to share vaginal orgasms and deal with sexless marriages. Her unique ability to unlock the scriptures and challenge traditional views makes her a popular speaker, coach, and writer. She authored three in-depth books on marriage including two on the Bible and sex that are used in congregational studies plus numerous other publications.

Patsy has participated in and taught college-level Bible classes for over 30 years on marriage and the Bible. She was a minister's wife for 22 of those years working with congregations in Washington, Texas, and California. She is an internationally recognized expert on the Song of Solomon. CLASServices certified her as an Advanced Personality Trainer in *Wired That Way*. See her LinkedIn profile and About page at PatsyRaeDawson.com for more information. Visit EmbarrassTheAlligator.com and SongOfSolomonLoveTriangle.com for additional teaching on sexless marriages.

Sign up for *Embarrass the Alligator Newsletter* at any of the above websites. Patsy frequently publishes articles about the surprises and trends the survey reveals.