



# *Living Essentials*

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**DARE TO SOAR**

TWELVE LESSONS TO HELP  
US BECOME A PEOPLE THAT ARE:

**"LIVING ESSENTIALS"**

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## Introduction

The difference between religion and true Christianity, is one of them is **"Living the Essentials"** of life.

Many people give mental assent to the Church, and even to God. "Don't just be hearers of the Word, but put it into practice" Jas 1:22. The difference however was summed up by Jesus himself. He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." Luke 8:21

When Jesus walked on earth, He not only taught His followers and hearers about "Principles" that God desires us to live by, but by his lifestyle, lived an empowered life.

Many people "try out" Christianity, as if it were an "alternative" or a "one off event". Christianity is much more than that. It is God's best for mankind.

God's Word is for us.

It gives us Principles that are unchanging, despite the decline of absolutes in most societies. We have an assurance that "Living Essentials" of the Word of God, will not only build hope and a future in us, but in our families, our towns, our cities, and our nations.

If change is to come in us, and add value to our society, it will be through individuals that live by "Conviction" and not by "Preference". A people that are "Living Essentials" found in God's Word.

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## FOREWORD

In the preparation of this course, many years of study, reading and discussion led us to the cry, “Do we really need another course?” The answer to that question is in your hands. However, three aspects were impressed upon me in developing the outline for this course.

1. Why do we serve? (Philosophy of Leadership)
2. Who do we serve? (Character of God)
3. How do we serve? (Nature of the Kingdom)

Teaching is not just passing on information, but rather imparting understanding. Psalm 103:7. We have all had many years of input from many sources, but Proverbs 23:23 challenges us, “Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.”

### How do we purchase the truth and how much will it cost us?

**Proverbs 4:7** “Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it costs you all you have, get understanding.”

**Understanding** means to be prudent, act wisely, give attention to, to ponder upon, to prosper.

<b>Prosper</b>	3 John 2 “You shall prosper as your soul prospers” (to help on one’s way)
<b>Soul</b>	Our mind, will and emotions
<b>Mind</b>	The seat of learning. Romans 12:2
<b>Renewing</b>	The adjusting of moral and spiritual vision, changing our thinking to the mind of God.
<b>Wisdom</b>	In the original Greek, wisdom is made up of two root words. Sophia: is the insight into true nature of things (Theory)  Phronesis: is the ability to discern ways of doing it (Practical)

**Gen 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (NKJ)

## Further References

This shows an interesting paradox.

- The forbidden fruit was ‘to be desired to make one wise. It was a very unwise thing to take it!
- To “look at”, or to “give attention to” then is a requirement of understanding.

**Isa 41:20**

**That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it. (NKJ)**

**Jer 9:23-24**

**Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising loving kindness, judgement, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the Lord. (NKJ)**

It is our desire to see people of prophetic vision (insight), with spiritual and practical understanding (ways of doing things).

It is with these fundamental principles in mind that “Living Essentials” was written.

Our Vision for Christian Life, is to see each person within our care Discover, Develop, and Invest their God given gifts and talents in a place of effectiveness. To do this, we have developed a “three phase” leadership training and development program.

“Living Essentials” concludes the first phase within this program.

For further information on training within “AsSalt” ministries, and our International leadership development program, please visit our web-sites [www.tonymckeown.com](http://www.tonymckeown.com), [www.clcd.org.uk](http://www.clcd.org.uk) or alternatively contact:

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*Further teaching materials by Tony McKeown:*

*Solid Foundations*

*Life in the kingdom*

*Seven steps to personal empowerment*

*Club 180 - new Christians study)*

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## LESSON TWELVE

# FAMILY LIFESTYLE

When we talk about the ‘Kingdom of God’, we are identifying two aspects of life:

- **Our personal lifestyle and character**
- **Our close family relationships**

The way we live our daily life with our immediate family, and extended relatives, is a sure indication of the depth of understanding and submission to the King (Christ) and His kingdom.

Our home is a direct representation of the heavenly kingdom, here on earth.

If we conduct our earthly relationships in a heavenly manner, then we are living out the basic kingdom principle, and the kingdom principle has come to our earthly society, albeit in a lesser measure than what is to come.

The New Testament treats the home as a parable of Christ's direct relationship to the church, which in itself is a divine mystery.

The first demonstration of God's kingdom principle is seen in family relationships.

The world-wide attack and erosion upon family values is a direct indication of the value that Satan and God have placed within and upon the family unit. It is imperative that we understand the purpose and function of God's kingdom expression in our family.

### 1 **Why Did God Choose ‘Family’?**

- It was seen as a basis for society (see SF12)
- It is the basis of unity and life
- Unity requires a balance of strengths and development.  
This is a daily process.

Deut 11:18-21

Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

### **Further References**

Gen 2:21-25; 1 Thes 5:23;  
Matt 19:56

To 'become' one flesh requires time. It is not instantly attained but requires a unity of:

**a. Spirit**

Which comes about by individuals submitting to God and worshipping Him.

**b. Soul**

Which is brought about by honest communication and communion.

**c. Body**

This is brought about by a practical demonstration of love and affection, caring and physically giving of ourselves to one another.

**d. Attitudes**

Our attitudes will determine the depth of unity between a husband and wife, which in turn will be a model to the immediate family and society at large. 'Becoming one' therefore is a process of setting kingdom values in:

- (i) individuals
- (ii) marriage relationships
- (iii) family

**Ephesians 5:18-21**

- Be filled with the Spirit
- Be overflowing in worship
- Be grateful
- Be submissive to others

**e. God**

As the Creator of the family, He has also predetermined a purpose and plan for the family. (see SF7)

**2. As The Wife Is To Her Husband, So Is The Church To Christ!**

Much confusion and even anger has resulted in misunderstanding of this premise laid out in Scripture. Nevertheless, the principle is fundamental to the effective blessing given us by obedience to it.

Gen 3:16

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire [shall] [be] for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

**Further References**

### Ephesians 5:22-27

**Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (NKJ)**

The wife is subject to her husband. The term here is not used to denote inferiority, or the same term would denote Christ as being inferior to God. Submission means to 'yield', to give up the fight. Christ is returning for a church that has yielded itself to His lordship, not ready to fight Him.

To be 'Subject' also means to her husband, not men in general, but wives subject (submit) to husbands.

### Note:

- To 'subject' means to 'arrange under'.
- The thought here is that the wife is demonstrating to the world how the Christians relationship to Christ is lived out daily, as Christ being our head.
- Being in correct relationship through subjection releases the wife to be protected by her husband.

The wife responds to, and literally supports the head, as His body. The wife that supports, cherishes and gives honour to her husband will release him into the capacity to love her in return.

Maintain the thought that God is not attempting to reform an unregenerated society. He is birthing a new society whose nature displays righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The wife's attitude, like her husbands, should be of reverence, honour and respect. The continual assault upon a woman's rights, and liberty from secular society to change her, is equally as wrong as her attempts outside of God to change society.

- A wife who adapts to her husband's headship, is reflected by his character and understanding of his leadership role.

### Eph 5:23

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

### Rom 14:17

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

### John 18:36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

## Further References

If she criticises and confronts as a means of dishonouring him, then the headship in God's order is destroyed and the covering is lost, causing damage to herself. Children living in a relationship where dishonour is displayed, are encouraged to dishonour their earthly father, which ultimately robs God's authority in whom all authority is established.

*“Honour is a feeling we decide to express by placing high value, worth and importance on another person, viewing that person as a priceless gift, and respectfully granting him or her a place in our lives. Love propels that decision into action” Dr Gary Smalley*

### 3. The Husband's Love Of His Wife Exemplifies Christ's Love For The Church.

#### 1 Corinthians 11:3-12

**But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonours his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God. (NKJ)**

The relationship of Christ to the church is that He is our Lord. The husband is the head of the family (wife). As we have seen earlier, this is NOT applied through superiority, but through divine order.

- The head directs the body and initiates decision making processes.
- The head interprets sensory perception.
- The head is used to make decisions that will keep the body safe and alive (feed, nurture & protect).

The relationship of Christ to the Church is that of a lover.

The wife is commanded to **reverence** her husband. Whereas the husband is commanded to **love** his wife.

#### 1 Cor 11:5

But every woman who prays or prophesies with [her] head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved.

#### Eph 5:23-29

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord [does] the church.

#### Eph 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

#### 1 Cor 11:3

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman [is] man, and the head of Christ [is] God.

### Further References

Eph 5:28-29; Eph 5:27; Eph 6:1-5; Rom 13:1-2

It is the husbands love towards his bride that releases her to serve God and therefore His will. The husbands love should be motivated by his willingness to lay down his life for his bride, as Christ did. (Ephesians 5:25)

The husbands love for his bride then should be a manifestation of Christ's own love for **His** bride ... the Church.

The purpose of Christ's relationship with any of His children is to bring them into the will of the Father.

Sanctify literally means to "separate into God's purposes". Husbands are to love their wives as much as themselves and as much as Christ loves His church. This love propels us into God's purpose.

NB: A man who does not honour his wife will not have his prayers answered (1 Peter 3:7)

#### **4. Our Relationship To Our Children Is Interpreted As God's Relationship To Them.**

**Ephesians 3:14-15**

**For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, (NKJ)**

The word family 'Patria' or 'Pater' literally means Father or Fatherhood. The purpose of parenting then is to train children in the ways of 'The Father'.

In today's generation there are many voices, opinions and mediums by which our children are trained. Our responsibility is to ensure that by the same means 'Our Father' trains us, we train our children.

- Training requires discipline

**Ephesians 6:4**

**And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (NKJ)**

**Proverbs 22:15**

**Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him. (NKJ)**

Eph 5:26-27

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Prov 20:30

Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, As [do] stripes the inner depths of the heart.

Ps 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. We will not hide [them] from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.

Eph 5:4

neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

#### **Further References**

1 Cor 7:3-5: Eph 5:28

Training releases us into function. It is insufficient to exact discipline without an example of the correct way of doing things. “I can’t hear what you’re saying because your life speaks too loud”. Words may be misinterpreted, but example is always clear. Statistics show that 80% of people will learn by ‘relational teaching’ as opposed to theoretical means. However, effective training will use both.

- Training deals with our will, whereas teaching deals with our mind. If we want to be effective in raising Godly children we must do both.

In order to be effective in training our children, we should enhance our relationships with them to produce maturity by Truth and Love.

Love without discipline and correction will not produce maturity as God sees it.

Correction without love will crush the spirit of the child.

- Love requires discipline as well as affection.
- Discipline requires love as well as justice.

The result of proper Godly training of our children, is to release them into the blessings of God, and the promises laid up for us:

- Long Life **Exodus 20:12**
- Good Life **Deuteronomy 11:18-21**
- Wisdom **Proverbs 29:15**

## 5. The Child’s Relationship To Their Parents Demonstrates Their Relationship To God.

This is a direct command to children:

- They are to obey **Ephesians 6:1-4**
- They are to honour **Exodus 20:12**
- They are to support **Matthew 15:5-9**

See the rebuke Jesus gave the religious people that spoke pleasantries, but their heart was closed to their parents needs.

In conclusion to living as a family in God’s kingdom, we can sum up this study in the following way. Jesus said:

**Matthew 6:33**

**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (NKJ)**

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2 Tim 3:15

and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Heb 12:6

For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.

Matt 15:4

For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’

## Further References

Prov 22:6; 6: 20-34

Heb 12:11; Eph 13:15; Eph 6:1-3;

Matt 15:5-9; Prov 15:31-33 8:1-19

Within God's kingdom there are covenants (promises) for ourselves, family and friends.

Salvation      **Exodus 12:1-37; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7; Acts 16:19-34**

Blessings      **Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-7; 26:23-24; Galatians 3:25-29**

Deliverance    **Isaiah 49:25**

Empowering    **Acts 2:38-39**

Righteousness **Psalms 103:17-18**

Preservation    **Jeremiah 32:39 (1 Cor 11:3-12)**

Refreshing      **Isaiah 44:3, 54:13**