1) INTRODUCTION
   a) The marriage relationship is meant to be the most intimate of all human relationships.
      i) The word “intimate” comes from the Latin word meaning “inmost.”
   b) It is important to understand foundational truths of God’s intentions for the family.
   c) 1 Peter 3:1-7
      i) God uses Abraham and Sarah in this passage as an illustration for the family.
         (1) Abraham and Sarah did not have an easy time in their marriage and family.
            a) They were constantly on the move.
            b) They dealt with the consequences of infidelity between Abraham and Hagar.
            c) They had a blended family and had difficulties with their children.
            d) They had frustrated dreams.
               i) God promised Abraham certain outcomes, but it seemed as though time was running out and those promises would go unfulfilled.
         (2) Through all of the trials of youth, middle age and the sunset years of life, Abraham and Sarah stuck it out.
   d) There are principles that Abraham and Sarah learned that we can also learn that will give us a solid foundation for our homes.

2) GOD’S DESIGN FOR THE WIFE (1 Peter 3:1-2)
   a) 1 Peter 3:1-2 teaches that wives are to submit to their husbands.
      i) The reason for this, very simply, is because God says there must be order in the home.
         (1) For there to be order in the home rather than chaos, there must be a head.
            a) Anything without a head is dead, and anything with two heads is a freak.
         (2) This is true, not only in the home, but in the church and in any organization.
      ii) The Bible makes it very plain that the husband is the head of the wife.
   b) The Bible does not teach that women are inferior.
      i) 1 Corinthians 11:3
         (1) God the Father is the head of God the Son.
         (2) God the Son is not inferior to God the Father.
      ii) There is a divine order:
         (1) God the Father - God the Son - the man - the woman.
         (2) This order does not preclude equality.
            a) A woman is equal with a man.
      iii) Galatians 3:28
          (1) In Jesus Christ, we are all one.
   c) The devil today is trying to obliterate the differences between male and female.
i) It is the devil’s attempt to make men and women alike under the guise of making them equal.
ii) Men and women are equal, but they are not alike.
   (1) God made us different that He might make us one.

d) The attitude of submission
   i) When the wife has this attitude of submission to her husband, it does not mean that she is inferior.
   ii) When a husband is the head of the home, it does not mean that he is superior to his wife.
   iii) As a matter of fact, she may be incredibly superior and more competent than him in certain areas.
   iv) As the head of the home, the man may delegate authority; but he cannot delegate responsibility.
   v) When God gives the man the responsibility of headship in the home, that is a responsibility that the husband can never give away though he may delegate authority.

e) The adornment of serenity
   i) 1 Peter 3:3-4
   ii) In this passage, God tells a woman how to be beautiful.
      (1) He is not saying that it is wrong to wear jewelry or fix her hair.
      (2) He is simply saying to not dress in a manner that takes away from her character but, instead, enhances her character.
      (3) Allow the inward serenity and beauty to be seen.
         (a) The greatest beauty is inward beauty.

f) The affirmation of speech
   i) 1 Peter 3:6
      (1) In this verse, the word “lord” is a term of respect, similar to how we might use the word “sir” today.
      (2) Sarah spoke respectfully to her husband.
         (a) A husband desires admiration from his wife.

g) The accommodation of service
   i) 1 Peter 3:5-6
   ii) Sarah obeyed her husband.
      (1) In this verse, “obey” means to pay close attention to his needs.
      (2) A woman ought to ask herself, “What can I do to be a helpmeet to my husband, to meet his needs physically, emotionally and spiritually in every way?”

3) GOD’S DESIGN FOR THE MAN (1 Peter 3:7)
   a) God requires far more of the man than He does the woman.
   b) The man is to be the provider in the home.
      i) Genesis 2:15
      ii) It is the man’s responsibility to bring in the basic necessities to the home: food, clothing, transportation, etc.
         (1) If the man does not assume that basic responsibility, then there will be a loss of respect.
      iii) The husband is to also give honor to his wife and meet her emotional needs.
(1) There are seven basic emotional needs of a wife:
   (a) She needs the stability and direction of a spiritual leader.
   (b) She needs to know that she and she alone is meeting the basic needs
to her husband that no other woman can meet.
   (c) She needs to see and learn that her husband delights in her; that he
cherishes her as a person.
   (d) She needs to know that her husband enjoys setting aside quality time
for intimate conversation with her.
   (e) She needs to know that it is the goal of her husband’s life to protect her
in areas of her limitations.
   (f) She needs to know that her husband is aware of her presence even
when he is doing other things; she is not ignored.
   (g) She needs to know that the goal of her husband’s life is to invest in her
life to help her expand and fulfill her world.

   c) The husband is the protector.
   i) Genesis 2:15
      (1) Adam was told not only to dress the garden but to keep it.
      (a) The word “keep” means “to guard.”
      (b) The husband is to shield, guard and defend his family.

   d) The husband is the pastor of the home.
   i) 1 Peter 3:7
   ii) “That your prayers be not hindered.”
       (1) This passage may be referring to the husband and wife together, but most
certainly, it is speaking about the prayer of the man of God.
   iii) The husband’s assignment from God is to love his wife as Christ loves the
church.
       (1) Ephesians 5:25-27
          (a) The word “spot” in this passage refers to defilement.
          (i) The husband is to keep his wife from defilement.
          (b) The word “wrinkle” in this passage refers to an inward scar.
          (i) Women have such tension in their lives because their husbands do
not love them as they should.

       (2) The husband is to make his wife a more radiantly, beautiful Christian.
       (3) Joshua 24:15

4) CONCLUSION
   a) In order to have a godly home, we must read and follow God’s directions.
   b) If you want God in your home, then you must have God in your heart.
   c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him
to come into your life.
   d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him
to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
   i) Romans 3:23
   ii) Romans 10:9-10
   iii) Romans 10:13
   iv) Acts 16:31