

Sunday School – 9:30 A.M. Worship – 11:00 A.M.  
Prayer Meeting – 7:00 P.M.  
Adult Literacy Class – Thurs. 12:00 Noon  
Bible Study Thurs. 7:00 P.M.

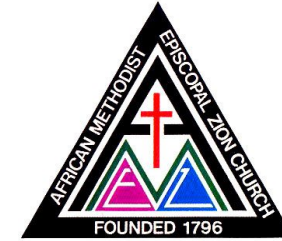
## *St. James A.M.E. Zion*



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St. James A.M.E. Zion Church  
Will formally welcome our  
Pastor & First Lady  
The Rev. Dr. Winston & Ingrid Prescott  
On  
**Saturday, May 6, 2006**  
**at 4PM**

## *ST. JAMES A.M.E. ZION CHURCH*



## *The New Birth Of Our Manhood*



*Workshop  
March 18, 2006*

Rev. Dr. Winston S. Prescott, Moderator



***WELCOME***

***PRAYER***

***SCRIPTURE***

***INTRO***

***OUTLINE***

- I. WHAT IS MAN***
- II. MAN'S ROLE IN THE FAMILY***
- III. MAN'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY***
- IV. MAN'S ROLE IN THE CHURCH***

***CLOSING Rev. Dr. Winston S. Prescott, Pastor***

Modern philosophy has lost its sane anthropology because it has lost its cosmology. Man does not know himself because he does not know his place in the cosmos; he confuses himself with angel or with animal.

## **I. WHAT IS MAN? *(Romans 7:15-24).***

“Man is a living oxymoron....” Peter Kreeft

“One of the greatest mysteries is in us...How can one species produce both unspeakable wickedness and nearly inexplicable goodness? How can we be responsible both for the most disgusting squalor and for the most breathtaking beauty? How can grand aspirations and self-destructive impulses, kindness and cruelty, be interwoven in one life? The human enigma cries out for explanation” Thomas Morris

### THE PARADOX OF THE HUMAN CONDITION

\* “Greatness, wretchedness” The more enlightened we are the more greatness and vileness we discover in man.” “Man’s greatness and wretchedness are so evident that the true religion must necessarily teach us that there is in man some great principle of greatness and some great principle of wretchedness.” Blaise Pascal

## **II. MAN'S ROLE IN THE FAMILY**

The society in which we live has neglected to teach men about their role in the home. The worldly view of a man's role is that he should provide financially for his family, but we shouldn't expect him to be very engaged with home life. In spite of all our talk of feminism, we have left the job of making a home and raising the kids to the female of the household. The role of leadership, of teaching and correcting the kids has fallen to the feminine side of our society. This is both unwise and unbiblical. As a result our homes are very weak and the enemy finds it very easy to destroy

our families through divorce, rebellion, addictions, and child abuse.

Our homes are being destroyed for lack of godly men who know their role or mission.

The Lord searches for righteous, godly men. The city of Sodom would have been spared for ten righteous men (Genesis 18:32), but God could not find even one righteous man in Sodom. Does a godly man make a difference to a nation or to a city? Absolutely! And a godly man makes a difference to a family too. Are you a holy, courageous man on behalf of your home.

What does it mean to be a godly, righteous man to your family?

What is required of Christ's man in the home?

What is God's view of a man's role in the home?

There are six Biblical missions for Christ's man in the home:

### ***1. The Man of the Household is to Keep the Focus on the Mission***

God said this about Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation: *"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him"* (Genesis 18:19).

For what mission did God chose Abraham? The mission of *directing* his household. Men are to be the directors and managers of their household. In speaking about the requirements for elders in the church, Paul says to Timothy:

*He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.* (1 Timothy 4:1). Men are uniquely suited for direction. Directing is keeping the "mission" in mind. Your

wife and kids will sometimes get lost in the forest and it's your job to keep the focus on the mission. What is the mission? Jewish fathers were taught by the rabbis that their mission involved four goals:

Goal #1: To pass on a living relationship with the Lord God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Jeremiah 9:24; Philippians 3:8-10).

Goal #2: To help your children know the joy of obedience and the value of character (Genesis 18:19; Philippians 2:19-22).

Goal #3: To see your children trained for life, i.e. skills for getting along in the world (Proverbs 22:29).

Goal #4: To prepare your children for marriage.

Men, it is your job to keep the focus on these goals. In the midst of soccer schedules, ballet performances, and school activities, you may need to be the (sometimes) lone voice in the wilderness, keeping the family focused on what is really important for this life and the one to come.

One of the things that you can do to help your family focus on the mission is to develop a Family Mission Statement.

### ***2. The Man of the Household is to Be Involved as a Teacher***

Almost all Scriptures in the Bible about teaching children are addressed to men. Proverbs 4:1-5 is an example: *Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live."*

In order to teach your children you will need to:

- Value people over things, i.e. your children over computers, cars, boats, or TV.
- Teach about God. Teach about obedience. Lead in home devotions.
- Your kids will need to see you excited about learning about God.
- Expand your teaching to include a trade for your children and to prepare them for marriage.

### **3. The Man of the Household is to Provide for His Family**

*If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (1 Timothy 5:8).*

Work hard when you are at work. Choose your occupations and employment wisely. Provide an ample budget to your wife. Don't pinch pennies with her while you buy a \$15,000 bass boat.

Studies show the urgency of comprehensive career planning from a biblical point of view.

- Job satisfaction is at its lowest level in 21 years.
- The average American worker changes jobs every 2.5 years.
- Fifty percent of the jobs that will exist in the year 2006-07 haven't even been created yet, intensifying career chaos.
- Thirty percent of American workers plan to change jobs in the next three years; for young workers, the rate soars to 60 percent.

### **4. When present, the Man of the Household is to Take Over the Loving and Disciplining of the Children**

*For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12).*

Fathers are to love their children with encouragement and comfort. One of the ways you can do this is by blessing your children. Jewish fathers gave their children a fatherly blessing on each Sabbath and upon other occasions. The fatherly blessing had 5 elements: touch, spoken words, placing a high value on the child, envisioning a future for the child, and commitment to fulfilling God's call on their life.

*He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him (Proverbs 13:24).*

*Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death (Proverbs 19:18).*

Correct your children. Use the 5 tool of correction: negative reinforcement, logical consequences, natural consequences, positive reinforcement, ignore the behavior.

### **5. The Man of the Household is to Minister to the Needs of His Wife**

One of the most difficult things for modern men to understand is how they are responsible for their wives. As head of the household we have a responsibility for the household, including the state of our marriage.

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the*

washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband (Ephesians 5:25-33).

Ask about her day each day. Be sympathetic and encouraging. Provide stress relief. If she is creating a home and caring for the children, then she is making a sacrifice that few women are willing to make.

### **6. The Man of the Household is to Protect His Wife and Family**

The father is a guardian for the family. The fatherless lack a man to defend and protect them (so God serves as their defender). Proverbs 23:10 shows the role of fathers as defenders: *Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless, for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you.*

What does a father defend his family from?

- a. From criticism - particularly opposition from relatives.
- b. From evil influences. How much social contact will my family have and what form will it take?
- c. From the dangers of youthful desires. Take the lead in courtship and dating.
- d. From physical and spiritual calamity. Pray for protection for your family: *When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have his sons and daughters*

*purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom (Job 1:5).*

- e. From harmful contacts with teachers, counselors, and youth leaders.

### **Ten commandments for husbands**

1. Thou shalt not take thy wife for granted, but will honour and respect her as thy equal. (1Pet 3:7)
2. Thy highest allegiance, except God, shall be to thy wife, not thy relatives or friends. (Gen 2:24)
3. Thou shalt frequently tell thy wife how important & valuable she is to thee. (Phil 2:3; Prov 31:10-11)
4. Thou shalt hold thy wife's love by the same means that thou won it. (Sos 5:10-16)
5. Thou shalt actively establish family discipline with thy wife's help. (Eph 6:4)
6. Remember to do all the little things for thy wife when you say you will. (Mt 5:37)
7. Keep thine eyes on thy own wife, not thy neighbors. (Prov 5:15-20; Job 31:1; Jer 5:8)
8. Thou shalt make every effort to see things from thy wife's point of view. (Gen 21:12)

9. Thou shalt not fail to kiss thy wife every morning. (Sos 8:1)

10. Thou shalt not be stingy with thy wife when it comes to money. (Esther 5:3)

## Role of the Husband in the Bible

"But if any man does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. " 1 Timothy 5:8

"But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. " 1 Cor 11:3

"Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. " Col 3:19

Women don't want to marry ideas; they want to marry men. Many women have married men with convictions very different from their own. That's because what often seems important to men is small fries to women. Many men think they can win an argument with a woman by the sheer force of their rock-solid exegesis and their cold, objective logic. But they are mistaken. This is not because women are irrational or illogical— far from it. They simply have different priorities.

For instance, if a man is trying to convince a woman to go along with a suggested route on a long journey, she doesn't necessarily need to know the minute details of every road and intersection before she's convinced. If the man will first listen to her, then gently and humbly convey to her his position very confidently, she will more often go

along. What's more important to her is not that the journey be completed in a timely manner, but that she feel confident in following the man...even if he's wrong. She doesn't mind being wrong with a man she respects. The relationship is more important to her. But the man is not thinking about any of this-- he simply wants to improve his gas mileage.

We need to humble ourselves and figure out how to communicate with our mate in such a way that we communicate our feelings using a language she would interpret the way we desired her to hear it. In other words we have to understand that we don't communicate meaning... we communicate words.

God is like this with His "bride" the Church. He doesn't treat us as seminary students. He doesn't refer to Himself as a philosopher king. Instead, he gives us Song of Solomon. He speaks of us as a lover. He also speaks to us as a Father. In both cases, God fundamentally relates to us on relational— not rational — terms. This does not mean He never deals rationally, but only that when He chooses to communicate with us, His normal pattern is to speak as a loving husband speaks to His Bride. He doesn't debate.

Ever notice that when Jesus argued with men (especially lawyers), many went away angry because He had intellectually ripped them to pieces? But what about the women? More often, His words and actions reduced them to tears, and they knelt at His feet to wipe them with their hair or sat at His feet to gladly take in all He had to say.

Which would you rather be, the Groom or the philosopher? Philosophers might win a few debates, but they usually lose their mates.

## III. MAN'S ROLE IN COMMUNITY

What is community and why should men be concerned with it?

*Fellowship is heaven, and lack of fellowship is hell;  
fellowship is life, and lack of fellowship is death; and  
the deeds that ye do upon the earth, it is for  
fellowship's sake ye do them.*

Whether people are disposed to engage with one another is dependent upon the norms of a particular society or community

To judge the quality of life within a particular community we need to explore what shared expectations there are about the way men should behave.

Three linked qualities appear with some regularity in discussions of communal life:

**Tolerance** – an openness to others; curiosity; perhaps even respect, a willingness to listen and learn.

**Reciprocity** – describes generalized reciprocity thus: ‘I’ll do this for you now, without expecting anything immediately in return, and perhaps without even knowing you, confident that down the road you or someone else will return the favor’. In the short run there is altruism, in the long run self-interest.

**Trust** – the confident expectation that people, institutions and things will act in a consistent, honest and appropriate way (or more accurately, ‘trustworthiness’ – reliability) is essential if communities are to flourish. Closely linked to norms of reciprocity and networks of civic engagement (Putnam 1993; Coleman 1990), social trust – trust in other people – allows people to cooperate and to develop. Trusting others does not entail us suspending our critical judgment – some people will be worthy of trust, some will not.

The Socialist argument is that human behaviour is the result of society and that society is the product of men’s history. It therefore follows that in order to understand human behaviour we must understand society. We must understand how the pattern of individual lives is enacted against a background of social and economic forces in actual historical situations.

What can be said about man that is invariable in all forms of society throughout the world and in history is that he is a social animal. This is to say that man functions physically and emotionally about the practical problems of survival and in his personal relationships as a social being. These improved techniques were accomplished by an animal finally identifiable as homo sapiens which had acquired one crucially important advantage over and distinction from all animals – the ability to accumulate his experience socially. This was the ability of one generation, in terms of knowledge and techniques, to improve the productivity of its collective labour and then to pass on this experience socially to the next generation.

Each succeeding generation, in the practical activity of its own time, is able to encompass the achievements of all its predecessors, and, on this basis of cumulative social interaction, take itself forward. Thus do men make history and, in changing their culture and society, change themselves.

#### **IV. ROLE OF MEN IN THE CHURCH**

Many have commented that the number one problem faced by the church as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the absence of male spiritual leadership. Yet the church faces an even deeper problem, the relative absence of men from all spiritual activities in the church and the home. Men have failed to fill positions of leadership, to participate in worship, and to accept responsibility in the church. A central premise is that masculine characteristics of our faith, such as discipline, struggle and responsibility in care taking, have been neglected by the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century church. Though these characteristics are relevant to both, men and women, their neglect

has been especially detrimental to men. Though these characteristics should be expressed by both men and women, they urgently need cultivation by men in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church. These characteristics include, among others, taking on the role of soldier, caretaker and worker. Men described in the scriptures will serve as examples of these characteristics.

*"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none."* Ezekiel 22:30

- A. Men are often absent from Christian churches (they go to football games while women go to church though they are just as likely to say they believe in God). Why?
- B. The relative absence of men from Christianity is not seen in most other faiths, especially Judaism and Islam. Why do you think that is?



### A Man's Beatitudes

Blessed is the man that receives the Heavenly Father as Lord of his Life.

Blessed is the man that will lay down his life for his wife and children.

Blessed is the man that offers to wash the dishes and tend to the baby, so mother can have a break, even after his long day at work.

Blessed is the man that can attentively and patiently listen when he gets home, to crying children, and an exhausted and frustrated wife. Then be able with a smile, to offer comforting and soothing words, regardless of his feelings and frustrations.

Blessed is the man that takes the time to read the Bible to his children and pray with them, teaching them to receive his Heavenly Father as their Lord.

Blessed is the man that disciplines his children with love, making sure his life is a loving example of his Heavenly Father.

Blessed is the man that can patiently listen to his teenagers, when they are telling him that he is too old and doesn't understand today's world.

Blessed is the man that spends late nights and lonely hours in intercessory prayer for his wife and family, so he will be able to allow his Heavenly Father's love, patience, longsuffering, meekness, temperance, forbearance and forgiveness, to be seen and expressed in demanding and opportune moments.

Blessed is the man that is able to praise the Lord while the house has run amuck, mending his families hurts, frustrations, disciplining, and handling financial disruption, all the while, knowing the right words to say in love.

Blessed is the man that teaches and leads his family into becoming a Family of God.

Blessed is this humbled man, this unselfish man, who lovingly leads this home, as it has been taught to him by the Heavenly father, through His son Jesus Christ!