

THE HOME, WHAT IS IT & ITS FUNCTION

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Our society and nation as well as the whole world is plagued with a variety of religious, social and political problems which I believe, for the most part, are directly traceable to problems in the home.
- B. Arnold J. Toynbee: "Homes are the building blocks of civilization" an unknown author: "Home is the chief school of human virtues."
- C. Today we use the word "home" rather loosely to designate a variety of different ideas and such is generally the case in the Scriptures. The context must determine the usage of the word
- D. Let's examine idea of "home" and how it relates to us as Christians and determine if our "home" is what God would have it to be.

DISCUSSION:

I. WHAT IS THE HOME BY DEFINITION?

- A. What do you think of when someone uses word "home"?
 1. Sometime we think of a "home place" where our parents or our grandparents live, etc
 2. Pliny said: "Home is where the heart is."
- B. Webster defines "home" as:
 1. ⁽¹⁾One's dwelling place; abode of one's family
 2. ⁽⁷⁾The social unit or center formed by a family living together
 3. As an adverb: to the place where it belongs
- C. "It (family) is about a certain sustained knowing and consciousness that exists between its members, a security that comes less from the roof over our heads than the place in our lives that we make for each other." Phyllis Theroux; THE MEANING OF FAMILY Parents Magazine; May 1988
- D. A DEFINITION OF "HOME": "Home is the place where a world of strife has been shut out and a world of love shut in. Home is where the great is small and the small is great. Home is the place where faults are hidden and virtues are exalted. Home is where our stomachs get three meals a day and our hearts get a thousand. Home is the place where we complain the most and have the greatest blessings. Home is the father's kingdom, the mother's world and the child's paradise. Homes are vestibules of heaven." Author is not given. Quote taken from a workbook God's Way For Man by Carroll C. Trent
- E. Scriptural use: Greek words OIKOS, OIKIA from Young's, Vine's, Thayer's translated home, household, family
 1. One's own things Acts 21:6
 2. R.V. renders "home", "family" in 1Tim 5:4
- F. For purpose of this study we will consider word "home" from the standpoint of the idea implied in 1Tim 5:4 that is the family unit
- G. "The family circle is the supreme conductor of Christianity." Henry Drummond

II. WHAT CONSTITUTES HOME FROM BIBLE STANDPOINT

- A. Husband and wife 1Cor 14:35 (house, household)
- B. Children 1Tim 5:4 (family) husband & wife become parents
- C. Servants Matt 8:6 (house)
- D. That which belongs to you Jhn 20:10 (their own belongings)
 1. A place of residence 2Cor 5:6
 2. A place where one eats 1Cor 11:34

3. Where work is done to keep it Tit 2:5
4. Involves friends Mk 5:19

III. WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS WHICH GO TO MAKE UP THE HOME?

- A. The husband wife relationship (one flesh) Gen 2:18-24
 1. Husband's responsibility to relationship Eph 5:23-29
 2. Wife's responsibility to relationship Tit 2:3-5
- B. Parent - child relationship (word "parent" involves duty to one's own children)
 1. Children must obey parents "in the Lord" Eph 6:1 - Note example of Jesus Lk 2:51,52 (He grew in wisdom (mental); stature (physical); favor with God (spiritual) and man (social))
 2. Parents (particularly fathers) must bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord Eph 6:4; Col 3:21
 - a. "Nurture" The whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment – Thayer
 - b. From "Family Circus" (comics) What children learn from their parents will stay with them always - what parents fail to teach their children can never be taught by someone else.
 - c. Timothy's early religious training from his mother and grandmother 2Tim 1:5
 3. Not many things break down the morals of a country more quickly and cause more lawlessness than disrespect for parents. If children disrespect parental authority, they will disrespect all authority. If they have no regard for their parents, they are not likely to have regard for anything. But when such conditions prevail, parents are not blameless. Obedience and respect are matters that have to be learned. "Though he was a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." Parents that do not try to train their children in right principles and good habits care very little about them. R. L. Whiteside, Commentary On Romans, p.45

- C. Servants Eph 6:5-9; Col 3:22-24 (implies someone has authority over another whether bond servant or voluntary)
 1. We are servants of one another Gal 5:13; Eph 5:21
 2. This service must be as to the Lord not to men
- D. That which is one's own; spouse, children, house, car, money, land, etc. God is the giver of all things Acts 17:25 Time, abilities and resources

IV. THERE'S A BREAKDOWN IN HOME WHEN THE GOD GIVEN RESPONSIBILITIES ARE IGNORED IN THESE RELATIONSHIPS WHICH GO TO MAKE UP THE HOME

- A. When there is no mutual & unselfish love & respect between husbands and wives
- B. When there is no teaching, training, and disciplining of children as God directed
- C. When we fail to recognize responsibilities of service
- D. When the things which we possess becomes our God
 1. We allow outside activities (which may be desirable and acceptable) to be engaged in excessively.
 2. We do not put God's kingdom first Matt 6:33
- E. Judge George Edwards: six essentials to good family life
 1. Love, affection and security, preferably with own parents in own home

2. Full-time adult supervision and the teaching of self control
 3. Parents with whom child learns he can love on basis of mutual trust
 4. Close sense of family unity where members of family eat together, take vacations together, go to church together
 5. Parents taking interest in the education of their children
 6. Parents who set an example of living in accordance with the principles of their religious faith.
- F. Six secrets of strong families as compiled by Reader" Digest Nov. 1987 pp. 132-135
1. Commitment: Crucial to family's success is investment of time, energy, spirit and heart, an investment otherwise known as commitment
 2. Time together: 1500 children's answer to what makes a happy family - doing things together; what you do isn't as important as doing it
 3. Appreciation: Feeling appreciated by others is one of the most basic of human needs
 4. Communication: Good communication means clearing up misunderstandings
 5. Spiritual wellness: defined as a caring center with each of us that promotes sharing love and compassion for others
 6. Coping with crisis: Strong families have the ability to surmount life's inevitable challenges when they arise.
- G. Remember: These are from secular sources, yet they recognize the value of these principles in the rearing of children that have their basis in Biblical concepts.

CONCLUSION:

- A. In my judgment, most of the problems that are being experienced in the home can be summed up in one word: SELFISHNESS
 1. Husband and wives are interested only in themselves and their own gratification
 2. Parents do not know what the word means; they have no interest in their children
 3. Then this attitude carries over to the children and they develop into individuals who are only interested in self.
- B. Individuals must realize that the home is the basic unit of civilization
- C. When home fails to function as God intended it to, then civilization begins to crumble.
- D. When the home fails in carrying out its responsibilities of teaching and training then naturally the church is going to suffer as well.
- E. Parents must make the decision and the commitment made by Joshua in Josh 24:15
- F. Failure in our responsibilities to each other in the home or family unit is just as wrong as any other violation of the Word of God and will cause one to lose their soul.