

CHRIST AND THE HOME

Joshua 24:14-24

Introduction: The first institution ever built by God or people was the home. It was not the Church, not an orphanage or hospital nor an old folks home or was it a public school or university. God, Himself built the first home with Adam and Eve.

- God's plan for grown adults, (men and women) is for them to leave their parents and set up homes of their own.
- Every home has some kind of a foundation to start with, then "walls and roof" are added.

I. THE FOUNDATION OF A "HOME" SHOULD BE "FAITH" IN JESUS CHRIST

1. The foundation must be decided on.
 - Too many today are building on a rotten foundation.
 - Worldliness, sin, complete indifference to God.
2. The story is told of a couple getting married, became wealthy, had children but all this time they were not Christians. The husband/father died and the mother/wife became a Christian. She started crying over her grown children for they refused to listen to her and her testimony of her new life found in Jesus.
3. There is a tremendous difference between homes where Jesus Christ is honored and homes where He is not known.
4. Young people, some day you will have homes of your own. Build them on Jesus Christ.

11. THE WALLS OF THE "HOME" SHOULD COMPLIMENT THE FOUNDATION

1. The first wall should be of consecrated Christian living.
 - There are some "posters, cards, framed things" that say "Honor God," "God is the head of this house, etc." They are no good unless the children can see their parents doing what these signs, notes, posters, etc., say.
 - There are two main ways of teaching children: by precept (instruct) and example (show)
 - A father punished his small sons for smoking, yet he smoked in front of them, himself.
 - Sadly, too many parents do not live as they ought. Saved, yes, but Jesus Christ is not first place in their home.
 - It is a very sad day when a person/parent puts worldly things before Jesus Christ.
2. The second wall should be that of Bible and Prayer.
 - Many parents place a Bible where it can be seen, yet they never read it and forget where it is.
 - Parents, how often do you pray with all your family together?
 - Children remember prayers. Teach them by example how to pray.

3. A third wall needs to be that of discipline.
 - Not cruelty but loving correction. In today's time, there seems to be little if any discipline. It's easier to just let "kids be kids."
 - Parents are told by "psychologists" to not deny their children or it may "warp" their little characters.
 - The result can be seen so clearly of parents not disciplining their children, it is called "juvenile delinquency" - young criminals.
 - The story is told of a young mother who had a little boy who opened the gate and ran into the street. So the mother moved the latch up higher but the little boy still got out. Somebody said that "she should have put the latch on the boy."
 - Why discipline? It makes us better.

4. The last wall should be that of reverence.
 - Teach reverence for God. "My God!," "Well Jesus Christ!," vocal expressions using the name of God and Jesus in disrespect, are heard as often as any other words of extreme expression.
 - Reverence for God's day, Sunday also should be taught.
 - Sundays should be different from the other days of the week.
 - Some criticize others for fishing, hunting, etc. on Sundays, yet the ones criticizing get "sick" or "had something come up, etc" and Sunday is violated by them as well.
 - Parents are to set the example for keeping the Lord's Day holy.
 - Reverence for God's House needs to be taught also.
 - The Lord's House is not the place to be running around it, it is no place for backslapping, loud humor. It is a place to honor God and show Him respect.

III. THEN THERE IS THE ROOF OF LOVE (covers everything)

1. Troubles come, financial disasters, sorrows, but a home founded on the love for Jesus Christ will withstand all the storms of life.
2. There must be a mutual love. Each family member must love all the rest of the family members.
3. A man intent on conquering the world said: "The greatest need of "France" is for more Christian homes.
4. The same thing can be said about our own country. There is a great need for more Christian homes.

CONCLUSION:

1. You can't decide for somebody else's home, but you can decide for YOUR'S.
2. Join with Joshua (Old Testament) and other Christian families in saying:
"...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."