

THE SWEETEST HOME ON EARTH

Matthew 7:24-29

Introduction: In building any type of building or establishing any sort of business, the foundation is essential, it is basic, for however solid the foundation, the rest depends. Homes, not just houses need a strong, firm, foundation based on the Word of God.

R.A. Torrey tells of his childhood days and he couldn't hardly wait till he was old enough to get away from his mother and her "religion." Finally when he was able to leave home, his mother told him, "Son, if you ever get to the end of your way and you don't know what to do, just turn to your mother's Savior and He will help you." There came a day in R.A. Torrey's life when he reached the end and was about ready to take his own life when the words of his mother came to him. He got down on his knees and poured out his heart to God and found peace, forgiveness and salvation.

If only homes of today were centered in the Lord Jesus it would be so much harder for the children to go astray and become part of the greater problem of our country. What does it take to have a Christian home?

I. A CHRISTIAN HOME MUST HAVE CHRISTIAN PARENTS

1. In a real Christian home both parents are Christians and live for the Lord every day.
 - It would be great to be children of famous people, or wealthy parents, but it is finer yet to be children of Christian parents.
 - Life boats and light houses both serve a purpose, but to pay attention to the light house could very well prevent one from ever having to use the life boat. Thus a Christian light at home can very well prevent a child, when older, from ever needing a lifeboat.
2. There are enemies of the Christian Home.
 - Christian parents need to take the lead in leading their children to the Lord.
 - The example of how parents live before their children ultimately affects their children for children, when older, take up some traits of their parents - good and bad.
 - Christian parents need to avoid all questionable things, living before their children how they want their children to live when they are older.

II. A CHRISTIAN HOME HAS A VITAL CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH

1. There are parents who claim to be Christians yet they are not faithful to their church, so therefore they have no real Christian influence.
 - Children of such parents see the attitude of their parents toward the Church and grow up having the same attitude.
 - A woman sent a letter to a pastor criticizing him and mentioned that she had also "straightened out" the pastor before him. She further stated that she had five children and none of them cared about the Church either. Wonder why not?
2. A genuine Christian home will have a vital connection with a Church, involving all the family.

III. A CHRISTIAN HOME HAS CERTAIN VITAL ELEMENTS

1. There must be a unity.
 - When two people marry, they ought to be united in every ambition and purpose.
 - Husband and wife are to hold hands with Jesus in the middle with each holding one of His hands.
2. There must be love.
 - There needs to be expressed love. Every family member ought to know that love exists in their family by the way it is expressed.
3. There must be discipline.
 - It is easy to spot an undisciplined child and that child will grow up to become a juvenile delinquent and then a criminal if not disciplined.
 - How many parents have said "I love my child too much to punish him/her." That is senseless love.
 - If parents love their children in the right way, they will discipline their children so that they will grow up to be a joy to themselves as well as others. *"...whom the Lord loveth, He chaseteneth..."*
4. There must be convictions in the home.
 - Moral issues are either "black or white." They are either right or wrong.
 - Children are growing up today saying "there's no harm in this or that.." and parents laugh and think that it is cute.
 - Sadly too many parents wait until it is too late to try to make clear what is right and what is wrong. Children need to be taught while they are still children.

IV. A CHRISTIAN HOME HAS A FAMILY ALTAR

1. Sadly some families don't even "ask the blessing" at meal times.
 - A little boy once asked the parents of a friend of his, who were Christians, why they bowed their heads and said something before anyone could eat. He had never seen prayer at mealtime done before.
 - There is the opposite that happens as well. A little boy went to a friend's home for lunch one day and when seated everyone started eating, nobody said a prayer. The little boy asked "don't you thank God for your food?"
2. Every Christian home needs to have a time when God's Word is read and prayer is offered.
 - Children ought to hear the voice of their parents reading God's Word and praying beside their Sunday School teacher or the preacher.
 - When Children hear their parents reading God's Word and praying, they will learn to do so for themselves.

CONCLUSION:

1. The nearest thing on earth to heaven is a happy Christian home although there is still a great difference between one's earthly home and one's heavenly home.
2. Parents, it is your duty to get your children ready for adult life, but also for heaven as well.