

THE PURPOSE AND POTENTIAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME

- A Harbor from the wicked winds of the world.
- A Hospital for healing the wounds from this world.
- A Haven from the worthless wisdom of this world.

- Every home has a history of hurts and heartaches, though often buried inside the home and hidden from outsiders.
- Many Christian homes harbor hurts and heartaches instead of pursuing healing, thus hindering their God given purposes.
- Hope for healing the Home is found in the principles of scriptures, in the work of Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE POWER FOR THE HEALING AT HOME

- **GROW AND UNITE IN PASSION FOR SERVING THE SAVIOR.**
JOSHUA 24:15; ACTS 16:31; MATTHEW 7:25
- **GROW AND UNITE IN PROCESSING PAIN AND SORROW.**
GALATIANS 6:2; I THESSALONIANS 5:11
- **GROW AND UNITE IN PERSEVERING AMIDST STRUGGLES.**
MARK 3:25; NEHEMIAH 4:14; ROMANS 15:5

THE POWER FOR THE HEALING AT HOME

- **GROW AND UNITE IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE
IN THE MIDST OF STRESS AND STRIFE.**
MATTHEW 5:9; JAMES 3:18; I PETER 3:10
- **GROW AND UNITE IN PRAYER AND PRAISE
AMIDST SUFFERING.**
MATTHEW 18:19; I PETER 5;10-11.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Communication THEN & NOW

- 1) Growing up
- 2) School
- 3) New family dynamics
- 4) What communication guidelines did I set up in my family as a single parent
- 5) Now – retired, old age, living alone

Processes of Communication in Life

- 1) Intrapersonal Communication (speaking to myself)
- 2) Communication with Others e.g. family
- 3) Mass Communication ... Facebook?
- 4) Communication with God ... quiet time

HOW do we communicate with others?

Different Ways

Verbal ##

Non-verbal ##

Written #

Visual

Listening

Different Styles?

Passive

Aggressive

Passive-aggressive

Assertive

Communicating in the Family

- 1) Clear ground rules
- 2) Learn to **LISTEN**
- 3) Family time
- 4) School Activities – “absent fathers”
- 5) Be watchful, know and trust your children
- 6) Entrust to God
- 7) Change is powerful

Assess body language in the pictures:

- (i) contrast in atmosphere
- (ii) expression, look & hands of parents
- (ii) children's expressions & possible thoughts



PUTTING GOD IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

1. Understanding God's Role

Question: Why does God need to be in the drivers seat of our families?

Genesis 1:27-28 (NKJV) - So God ***created man*** in His own image; in the image of God ***He created him***; male and female ***He created them***. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- God putting his planned mandate into motion
- **Genesis 2:18 [NKJV]** - And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."
 - The Lord God said,
 - Not good - Man should be alone
 - I will make him a helper
 - Suitable - [NASB] - Companion - [MESSAGE]
 - Just right for him - [NLT]
 - Helpmeet [ASV]

- **Genesis 2:21-22 [NKJV]** - And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.
- God conducted the first open heart surgery
- There were no priests that day, so God conducted the first wedding.
- Therefore marriage vows are to God

Malachi 2:13-14 [NKJV] - And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. Yet you say, "For what reason?" ***Because Lord has been witness*** Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

- There were no witnesses in the garden
- God was the only witness

Malachi 2:16 [NKJV] - "For the Lord God of Israel says ***That He hates divorce***, For it covers one's garment with violence, "Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

- Divorce was never a part of God's plan
- God meant for families to be together for life.
- God did not say for separation later
- There is no such thing as prenuptial agreement in God's ordinances for families

2. How do we keep God in the drivers seat of our families

We maintain our families the God given way

1 Cor. 11:3 [NKJV] - But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

- God has ordered the family according to the principle of headship. Each member of the family lives under the authority of the head whom God has appointed.

- God ordained marriage for Adam to have a helper who would help him in all areas of his life (Gen. 2:18).
- God ordained marriage to complement each other. Adam was to complement Eve and Eve to complement Adam. They are lock and key where both are needed.
- God ordained marriage for completeness where Eve completes him (Gen. 2:21-23; 1 Cor. 11:8-9).
- God created marriage for procreation (Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 127:3-5). Only after the creation of Adam and Eve were blessed to go, be fruitful, and multiply.

A. BUILD AND MAINTAIN A FAMILY ALTAR

- No church, community, or nation will rise higher than the spiritual condition of its families.
- Today our nation suffers from a sickness of the soul because our family altars are weak.
 - a) Weak in their knowledge of God.
 - b) Weak in their convictions about God.
 - c) Weak in their experience of God.
 - d) Weak in their understanding of how to love one another.

B. SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN

Quality time always results in intimacy

1. **Emotional intimacy** - The couple is to build each other with kind words, complimenting and encouraging each another, showing affection like saying "I love you", giving a hug daily, being appreciative of each other.

- 2. Spiritual intimacy** - It enables the couple to serve God by praying, serving God, reading the Bible, having devotions, free to ask questions and receiving honest answers about their faith, and attending Church services together.
- 3. Physical intimacy** - It will enable the couple to hug each other, cuddle together when talking, holding hands, being affectionate, etc. Every human being needs physical touch conveying messages of love, warmth, care and comfort.

4. Intellectual intimacy - There is an honest and open discussion on things that bothers them without fear or dread.

5. Financial intimacy - This is where the couple will be transparent and accountable as to how the money is earned, spent, and used in the relationship. The couple needs to have money to spend on themselves.

C. ESTABLISH AND NURTURE GODLY HOMES

- God expects parents to establish godly homes where His heritage can grow and develop to their full potential.
- Godly homes are markedly different than the homes of those who do not know God.
- It is therefore crucial for the Christian parents to build homes on godly values.
- Children who have been trained in godliness will be able to live in an ungodly world and be an example of what it means to serve the Lord.
- If there are any legacy parents are to leave for their children, it is the godly influence they had on their lives.

D. “WHAT MAKES A GODLY HOME?” THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION WILL ENABLE GODLY PARENTS TO GO ABOUT ESTABLISHING SUCH A HOME. NO HOME CAN BE CONSIDERED GODLY UNTIL GOD HAD BEEN CONSCIOUSLY INVITED, RECEIVED, AND MADE CENTRAL IN THE THINKING AND ACTIONS OF THE FAMILY.

Godly home is where the following are present and actively displayed for the well-being of the children.

- 1) Godly home is where parents are conscious of the divine responsibility of rearing their children
- 2) Godly home is where parents sets a good example that will influence children more than their words.

- 3) Building a Godly home in an ungodly world is not going to be easy because it calls for boldness, courage, and determination to do everything God expects from them.
- 4) Godly home is where the atmosphere is conducive to the growth and development of children.
- 5) Godly home is where building of relationship is taking place on the understanding of each other.

- 6) Godly home is where the parents will recognize the uniqueness and differences in each child.
- 7) Godly home is where lines of communication are open towards God and the children.

8) Godly home must be evidenced by parents praying for their children every day.

- Pray they may know Christ early in life (Ps. 63:1; II Tim. 3:15)
- Pray they will have a hatred for sin (Ps. 97:10)
- Pray they will be kept pure until marriage. (I Cor. 6:18-20)
- Pray they will be protected from the evil one daily (Jn. 17:15)

- Pray they will have a responsible attitude in all their interpersonal relationships (Daniel 6:3)
- Pray they will respect those who are in authority in order to submit to them in a way which will glorify God (Rom. 13:1-4)
- Pray they will desire the right kinds of friends. (Prov. 1:10-11)
- Pray they will learn to totally submit to God and resist Satan (Jam. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9)
- Pray they will be single hearted, willing to be sold out to Jesus Christ (Rom. 12:1-2)