

THE HOME AS GOD WOULD HAVE IT

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. THE AMERICAN HOME IS FALLING APART! This Statement Is Not Idle Chatter Voiced By An "Alarmist" Preacher.

1. One million divorces in 1975 (2.2 million marriages estimated in 1975), is a living testimonial of the truthfulness of the above statement.
2. Of the twenty-four institutions which most greatly influence America, the home was listed fifteenth in importance.
3. Social critics have a field day speculating about the family.
 - a. The family is "near the point of complete extinction," says Ferdinand Lundberg, author of The Coming World Transformation.
 - b. "The family is dead except for the first year or two of child raising," according to psychoanalyst William Wolf.
 - c. So the pessimists tell us the family is racing toward oblivion, but they rarely ever tell us what is going to take its place.
 - d. This writer suggests that we be wary and watchful of dangerous "bergs" and "intellectuals in 'Wolf' hides."
4. It would be of interest to you to read, Chapter 11, entitled "The Fractured Family," in Alvin Toffler's book, Future Shock.

B. If The Foundations Of Our Civilization Are Crumbling, What Can The Righteous Do? (*Psalms 11:3*)

1. "For other foundations can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (*1 Cor. 3:11*)

2. We can stand on the rock - The Word Of God.
(Matt. 7:24-25; 24:35)
3. Understand what God wants your home to be and then obey His teaching. Make your home pleasing to God.

II. AIM.

- A. To Present The Disasterous Results Of Man Following His Own Way As A Homemaker.
- B. To Show How God's Way Will Make The Home Function As It Should And Be A Lasting Relationship.

III. OUTLINE.

A. THE AMERICAN HOME TODAY.

1. "The American Family Can It Survive Today's Shocks?" This is the title of a 13-page special in U. S. News & World Report, Oct. 27, 1975. Notice the following highlights from this article:
 - a. Marriage bonds are being loosened by social and economic shifts in the nation-at-large; for example, women's quest for equality in the home and "fulfillment" in outside careers.
 - b. Rise in divorce rates. (Already highest in the world - one million divorces in 1975.)
 - 1) In 1960, there were twenty-six divorces for every one hundred marriages. Today there are forty-eight divorces for every one hundred marriages.
 - 2) By 1990, based on trends, there will be sixty-three divorces for every one hundred marriages.
 - c. As households change or break up, children are "cared for" by, a single parent, a working mother, a day nursery or the television set: And more than four hundred and fifty thousand children are living with their divorced or separated fathers.
 - d. "The old pursuit of love and marriage is a drift on a sea of alternatives. Recently

the Des Moines Register told of 'four-person marriages in which one husband-wife team marries another and shares household duties and sex in supposedly staid Iowa. Clergymen from established 'churches' sometimes officiate at homosexual 'marriages.'"

- e. Trial-marriages and communal-type households add to the turbulence.
 - f. Working mothers - An estimated thirty-four per cent of all wives with preschool children are working at outside jobs. Day care nurseries have sprung up all over the nation.
 - g. To answer the questions, "When - and how - will the U. S. family find a new point of equilibrium?", Dr. Richard A. Gardener, Professor of Child Psychiatry at Columbia University, says, "Today easier divorce laws and having the economic capacity for an independent existence makes it easier for couples to contemplate divorce. The lessening of religion's influence is a factor, too." Also:
 - 1) Divorced parents make it easier for their children to divorce.
 - 2) The image of the "Jet-setters" and the "good life" stimulate people to divorce - imagining they are missing out on "real living."
 - h. Serious concern is developing about the future of the nation's children, now caught up in family changes.
 - 1) More than thirty per cent of school-age children are living with parents who have been divorced at least once.
 - 2) Only one sixth of all U. S. children under eighteen live in one-parent families.
2. Those in our society who need and want marriage counseling receive it by and large from those who do not uphold "*The Home As God Would Have It.*"
- a. For example, Margaret Mead's two-step marriage:

- 1) Part one would be for companionship and sex with the relationship dissolvable without alimony by mutual consent.
 - 2) Part two would be marriage for parenthood where they would bind themselves to a permanent and equal responsibility for their children, even though they may later divorce.
- b. Two million divorces are predicted in the year 2000 which equals an increase of one hundred per cent in twenty-five years.
3. God's voice must be heard on this matter. What does the Bible say? What is a home like that has been designed by God?

B. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE HOME.

1. It is the oldest institution ordained by God. (*Gen. 2:18-25*)
2. It is the place of procreation. (*Gen. 1:28; 3:16*)
3. It is the place where love finds its fullest expression. (*Eph. 5:22-33*)
4. It is the place of child training and development. (*Luke 2:52; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-16; Prov. 13:24; 22:6; 23:13-14; Gen. 18:19; Josh. 24:15; Eph. 6:4*)
 - a. Teach by example. (*cf. Acts 1:1*) "To do and to teach."
 - b. Teach by the Word of God. (*2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:3-11*)
5. It is a place of evangelization.
 - a. This purpose is abused by some parents. What about your home?
 - 1) Lot's house - wrong kind of neighbors. (*Gen. 19:4-6 cf. 2 Pet. 2:7-8; cf. 1 Cor. 15:33*)
 - 2) Eli's house - bad boys. (*1 Sam. 2:12-25*) Father honored boys more than God. (*ver. 29*) (Study kings of Israel - sons like fathers)

b. Other parents understand and obey God's will in evangelizing their children.

1) Timothy. (2 Tim. 1:5)

2) Evangelization. (Deut. 4:9-10; 6:4-9)
(Acts 10- Cornelius' household)(Eph 6:1-4)

C. GOD'S PLAN FOR A HAPPY HOME.

1. Husbands, wives and children. (Col. 3:18-20;
Eph. 6:1-4)

a. Husband.

1) The head of the house. (1 Cor. 11:3;
1 Pet. 3:5-7; Eph. 5:23)

NOTE: It is not woman's place to allow
or place him there. GOD DID!

2) "Cleave unto his wife." (Gen. 2:24)

3) "Husbands love your wives, even as..."
(Eph. 5:25)

4) Comfort and protect the wife. (1 Pet.
3:7)

5) Support the family. (1 Tim. 5:8)

6) Train the family spiritually. (cf.
wife - 1 Cor. 14:35; children - Eph.
6:4; Heb. 12:5-13)

b. Wife.

1) In subjection to husband. (Col. 3:18;
Eph. 5:22; 1 Tim. 2:12-14) (cf. Eph.
5:21)

2) Study Titus 2:3-5 - Teachers; love hus-
band and children; workers at home, etc.

3) Not idle. (1 Tim. 5:13)

4) Proverbs 31:10-31 - Woman is man's glory
and priceless helpmeet.

c. Children. (Prov. 3:1-11)

- 1) Obedient to parents. (Eph. 6:3; Col. 3:20; Luke 2:51)
- 2) American children are, generally speaking, the most rude, least disciplined, disrespectful and disobedient to parents of any culture this writer has personally seen.
- 3) God says this is to the parents shame. "CHILDREN OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD FOR THIS IS RIGHT." (cf. Prov. 29:15; Eph. 6:1)
- 4) Parents, teach them to obey. Expect it! Demand it! Remember Eli's sons, "He restrained them not." (1 Sam. 3:13)

2. God's plan for a happy home will work if the plan is followed.

- a. Each family member is very important.
- b. The home is weakened and upset when any member fails in his responsibility, duties or obligations.
- c. A home as God would have it (a Christian home) is not an accident, it is an accomplishment.

D. IF WE ARE TO BUILD HAPPY HOMES THAT ARE PLEASING TO GOD, WE MUST:

1. Restore God's purpose and plan for the home:
 - a. Husbands who love their wives as Christ loves the church.
 - b. Wives in subjection to their husbands.
 - c. Children obedient to their parents.
2. Exalt Christ as head of our homes and Lord of our lives. (Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 6:46)
3. Follow God's pattern and not the experiments of a godless group of intellectuals whose marriages have failed; who are pressured by their peers

into saying something that sounds "smart" and "revolutionary"; who allow national change to manipulate moral standards. God's way is the only way for every family in every nation at any time to be happy and pleasing to Him.

4. Teach our children by "example" and from the "Word of God" the importance and sanctity of the home which would please the Heavenly Father.
5. Understand that the home is a place for:
 - a. Consideration - Where people are "thoughtful" of each other.
 - b. Communication - Where people "talk" to each other.
 - c. Communion - Where people "fellowship" each other.
 - d. Contentment - Where people are gratified, satisfied, fulfilled and have ease of mind. (*Heb. 13:5-6; 1 Tim. 6:6; Phil. 4:11-13*)

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. In A Day When The American Home Is Being Attacked As Being Outdated And Non-Productive And A Hindrance To Our Scientific Society, The Christian Knows How To Have Happiness In His God-Designed Home.
- B. God's Design And Purpose For A Happy Home Is As Reliable As The Day And Night; As The Laws Of The Universe.
 1. Learn His Design.
 2. Obey His Law.
 3. Live happily in your God-provided, protected, happy vestibule of Heaven.