

How To Get It Right in the Home

Psalm 127:1

You have probably heard it said, as the home goes, so goes the nation. One of the reasons why our nation is in trouble is because in many respects, the home is in trouble. When you look at your home life, how would you describe it? Did you know that God wants you to maximize your home? That is, that you might find true contentment and happiness and that beautiful place that we call home.

So here's a question. How can we, as members of the human family, get it right in the home? Well, the beauty of that question is, is reflected in the fact that God has given us a pattern. It's called the Bible. This book will teach us how to have the kind of home that would be pleasing to him, and ultimately yield great rewards to those of us who belong to the human family.

So let's just talk for a moment or two about how to get it right. And I want to begin by maybe talking about some principles that I believe will help us get on the right track and hopefully and prayerfully stay on the right track. So number one, when we consider the home and the importance of the home and what the home is to our nation, I want to submit to you that first and foremost, we need to have the right kind of foundation.

Now, when we talk about a foundation, could I submit to you that if you want to have a wonderful home life, you need to build your home on the Lord? You remember the psalmist said in Psalm 127 at verse one, unless the Lord builds the house, those who labor labor in vain. And the idea is that we want to build our home on the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Matthew chapter seven, you remember Jesus in that great sermon on the Mount, talked about the wise and foolish builders. He compared the wise builder to somebody who built his home on a rock. And he said, the rains descended, the floods came, the winds blew and beat upon that house. And he said it fell not why? Because it was founded upon the rock.

And he likened that individual to somebody who hears the word of God and then puts it into practice. But he said on the other side of the equation is the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. And he said, the rains descended, the floods came, the winds blew and beat on that house. And he said, it fell, and great was the fall thereof.

Think for a moment or two about the home that you live in. I would suspect that your home is undergirded by a strong foundation. Sometimes we'll talk about laying a slab, and then we build or frame upon that slab. Well, the idea is you've got to have you've got to have a strong undergirding. Well, by the same token, wouldn't it stand to reason that when we talk about the home that we would want to build our home on the Lord Jesus Christ, on that solid rock?

I think that there are far too many people in the world today. They have built their homes on any and everything but the Wright Foundation as a result of that. We see the problems that enter into the equation when it comes to the home. I mentioned a moment ago. The fact that as the home goes, so goes the nation.

You know, when we talk about our home life, it really begins with the marital relationship. In Matthew chapter 19, you recall Jesus was asked on one occasion, is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? Jesus answered that question with a question because he ask, have you not read? One of the real reasons why our homes today are floundering,

dividing, while there's so much chaos in the home is because sadly, we haven't taken the time to open the Word of God, to study the sacred contents and ultimately to come to a better understanding of the kind of home life that God's looking for.

So Jesus, in answering that question, asked, have you not read? Well, we need to go back to reading the Bible. But then he said, have you not read he that made them at the beginning made them male and female? He said, for this call shall a man leave his father and mother Cleveland, to his wife, and they shall be one flesh.

Wherefore they are no more two but one flesh. Now listen to him in verse six. What therefore God has joined together? Let not man put asunder. If you're watching this program today, and you are, you are at this point in time in your life, single. I would encourage you to marry a Christian, because ultimately the goal is to go to heaven and you want somebody that's going to stand by you and help you get to that beautiful home that we read about in Scripture.

Now, Amos asked this question many years ago. Can two walk together except they be agreed? And so we want to marry somebody that has the same ideals and aspirations and goals that we have and will hopefully and prayerfully, we're on the same page spiritually. We're looking to go in the same direction. Now, that being said, we talk about the foundation.

It might be that a lot of homes today are failing because they're being built upon what I would call substandard material, that is, the homes not built on the rock on the Lord. Now, there's a second thing I want to call your attention to. Number one, we've got to have the right kind of foundation. But number two, we also have to include into the dynamics of the home the importance of faith.

Well, how does faith come? Paul said faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. In Romans ten verse 17. We want to be people of faith. That is, we want to come to a conviction that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God. And based upon that, we want to do our best to put into action His Divine Word.

When we talk about faith in the home, it's an imperative that as a mom, a dad, a husband, and a y or wife that we demonstrate a sense of faith because the Bible says without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him. We want to have faith in the Lord. But here's the key. We want to pass that faith on.

Now we possess faith, but we want to do our best to instill in our children a measure of faith so that one day they can stand on their own two feet and they can demonstrate similar faith in their lives. Go back and look at Deuteronomy chapter six for a minute. You remember Moses in the long ago really set forth a template for success in the home life of the nation of Israel.

He said, hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one. And he said, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. Now listen to him. He said, you shall teach them diligently to your children. When you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, when you rise up.

What are you saying? Well, what Moses was saying to the children of Israel, to the nation, is that your home needs to be permeated with the Word of God. Now, I said a minute ago, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. And so imagine if you can, as parents, we're taking what the Bible says, and we are dropping the seed of the kingdom into the hearts and lives of those little ones.

We're trying to build faith in their lives. You remember in Second Timothy chapter one, Paul talked about the genuine faith that dwelt in Timothy. Timothy was his son in the faith, but he first called attention to the faith that dwelt in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. And then he said, and I am persuaded, is in you also.

So here's a question. How then, did that faith come about? Well, of one by accident. No. One second Timothy chapter three. In verse 15, Paul said, and that from infancy, and that from childhood, or from a babe, he said, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise and to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Now think about that for a minute. The Word of God will make our children wise and to salvation through Jesus Christ. Is that not what we're after? When you're when you talk about your children to other people, and you stress some of the things that they're doing in their own lives as they're growing and maturing. Do you accentuate the spiritual side of their lives?

Do you realize that as a parent, your child can go to heaven without going to college? Your child can go to heaven without having a college degree, but he or she can't go to heaven if he doesn't know the Lord or she doesn't know the Lord. It's it is imperative that we lay that foundation, and then we build upon that foundation.

We want to have rock solid faith. Here's what Paul said in Second Corinthians chapter five at verse seven. Paul said, we walk by faith and not by sight. That's the goal. So as a parent, when those children are born, to begin instilling within their lives the teaching of Almighty God, it'll make them better people. Is it not the case today that there are a lot of parents that have neglected teaching their children about the Lord, about the authority of Scripture?

You know, we live in a day in time when there are a lot of problems in our world. A lot of children lack direction, training, teaching, nurturing, discipline. Well, where does all that begin? Not in the school system. It's not the church's responsibility to rear children. Grant it those in the church supplement the teaching of the home. The primary responsibility rests upon mamas and daddies.

That's their responsibility. Listen to what Paul said in Ephesians six verse four. Paul writes, and you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That's the goal, isn't it? Now there's a third thing I want to introduce in our study today. We talk about a foundation, having a rock solid foundation, and then to have faith that faith rests upon that foundation.

It is fundamental to the well-being of any home. The third thing that I would want to maybe stress is the word fear to have reverence, respect, or all for God and for His Word. You know it seems to me that we're living in a day and time. Matter of fact, I would say that in our culture, in our society, we have lost a sense of respect or all for Almighty God and not just God, but also His Word.

You remember back in Exodus chapter three, we have an account of the Lord calling upon Moses to become the leader of ancient Israel. He would lead the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. Furthermore, he would become the lawgiver. He would receive the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, as recorded in Exodus chapter 20, and following. But let's just pause there for a moment or two.

When God appeared to Moses in the long ago, he said to him, Moses, I want you to remove your sandals for the ground where on your standing is holy ground. Now when we talk about God,

understand that God is holy. Isaiah said, his ways are not our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. No, we're talking about a holy God and being in the presence of a holy God.

In Isaiah chapter six, Isaiah said on one occasion that he saw the Lord high and lifted up. Understand that God is high and lifted up. Now that being the case, since God is our Almighty creator, sustainer, and Redeemer. Wouldn't it stand to reason that we would demonstrate proper respect and all for him? And then what about the word?

What about the Bible? I think that in our country, there was a period of time in which most people in this country believed in the one true living God. Furthermore, they believed in the ideals of Scripture. It was their conviction that this book was the inspired and accurate Word of God. They believe what Paul said in Second Timothy chapter three.

When Paul wrote all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable, that means the Word of God will benefit you or bless you in this life. It's profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped unto every good work. And so we're talking about the power of the Word of God.

Now, I want to call your attention to Psalm 119. In Psalm 119 161. Listen to what the Psalm has said many, many years ago. He said, my heart stands in all of your word. What do you mean by that? The psalmist was simply saying that I stand in all. I stand in respect and reverence for your divine word.

Many years ago, I heard a story about a fellow that was about to die, and on his deathbed he summoned some one to go and get what he called the book. And they said, well, what book? And he said, I want you to go get the book of all books. That's the Bible. So this book is an imperative in our home lives if we want to have the right kind of home.

I really believe that we need to spend time reading and studying this book. It's going to help us to be better people. It's going to help us to become more selfless in our day to day activities. We're going to understand the importance of sacrifices in the grand scheme of things when it comes to the home and so on.

This book is vital to the existence and enjoyment of the home. So I want to encourage you. I want to encourage you to look at this book, to stand in all respect or reverence of this divine book. Now, there's another thing I want to talk about in our study. Now it's true. We got to lay the right foundation.

We've got to build upon that foundation. We need rock solid faith. We also need to have proper fear, reverence, all for God in His Word. But the other thing is, we need to be focused in this life, focused on what's really important, what's not important. I really believe that there is a battle ongoing in the world in which we live.

The battle is spiritual in nature, and the battle that we're facing today is that between the secular and the spiritual. You remember in Romans chapter 12, Paul would say that we're to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God. He said, which is your spiritual service. It's your logical service. But in verse two he said, and be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Now, I mentioned just a moment ago the importance of Bible study in the home, the importance of allowing the Word of God to permeate in our homes, to step back and to say, you know what? The Lord knows best, and I want to follow the teaching of the Bible. Well, one of the things that the Bible will tell us right up front is that we need to be really focused in on

what's important in life, not at the temporal things of life, but rather at the eternal things of life.

In Matthew chapter six, Jesus and that great sermon on the Mount said on one occasion, lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust corrupt, where thieves break through and steal. But rather I want you to lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Could I ask today, what's the focus of your life? Is it all about the here and now?

Or are you looking beyond this veil of tears to that which is eternal in nature? In Second Corinthians chapter four, Paul said, we look not at the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen. He said the things which are seen are temporal. The things which are not seen are eternal. Now, that being the case, to realize that we're only here for a brief period of time and then we're in eternity.

You remember the psalmist in the long ago said that the days of the years of our lives, we might live to be 70. We might live to the ripe old age of 80. But he said, it's so cut off, and we fly away. Notice, in light of that that Moses would say in Psalm 90, verse 12. Teach us to number our days.

Are you using your time wisely? Constructively? Are you laying up treasure in heaven or on earth? Now, I'm not saying there's anything wrong with money or materialism. I'm not saying that there's anything wrong with enjoying the material blessings that we have in this life, and everything comes from God. But what I am saying is we can't accentuate that to the neglect of the spiritual.

And sadly, that happens sometimes. Sadly, some people get so consumed with the here and now they forget about eternity. Well, what we want to do is keep our eyes on heaven. You remember Moses, what was said of him in Hebrews chapter 11 and Hebrews chapter 11. The Bible says he chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin for a season.

Here was a man that had the world at his fingertips. He could have had anything you wanted. And yet he made a deliberate choice in life. He understood the brevity of life. Now is sin fun? Can it be pleasurable? Well, of course it can. But it's temporary. Matter of fact, the writer said he. He used this expression. The passing pleasures of sin.

Here today. Gone tomorrow. Listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 16. In verse 26, Jesus asked this question, what shall it profit a man of peace? You'll gain the whole world and lose his own soul. What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? So if we gain the world and lose our soul, what do we really gain?

Nothing. Matter of fact, we lost, didn't we? What about your children? Could I ask this question? Where will your children be in eternity? As someone said on one occasion, in all probability, where you are that says something about the influence, the power of influence, and how as a parent, we have to be the leaders in the home. Fathers, you have the responsibility of being that spiritual leader.

Sadly, there are a lot of fathers that have abdicated that role. And so the mother has had to assume that role by default. That wasn't God's design. No, God wants you to be strong and faithful in the home, to be focused. Now there is another thought I want to share with you the importance of focus. No doubt we've got to be focused in this life.

We've got to cast our eyes on things that are above. Matter of fact, Paul would say in Colossians chapter three he said, if then you've been raised with Christ, seek those things

which are above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Now listen to him in verse two. Set your mind. Set your affection on things above and not on things which are on this earth.

Why? Well, because John said the world passeth away, and the lust thereof. But he that doeth the will of the father abides forever. Philippians chapter three Paul makes mention of those who are minding earthly things. By way of contrast, he said, but our citizenship, our commonwealth, is in heaven. Whence also we wait for the Savior. Now I understand we are citizens of this great country that we live in called America.

But in a broader context, in a more important sphere, we are members of the Kingdom of God. We're just pilgrims on earth. We're just passing through. And so we don't want to just hook our wagon to the world, because the world, as I said a moment ago, is passing away. We don't want our families hooking their wagons to the world.

Stay focused. Now there's another thought. And that is we need to be faithful. Faithful to God as a mother, a father, a husband, a wife. Are you faithful to God? Is your life pleasing in the eyes of God? You remember what Paul said in Titus chapter two? Paul writes, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to every man, teaching us, instructing us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust listen to him.

We should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Are you living a faithful life? Are you living a godly life in Christ Jesus? It's important. Matter of fact, it's an imperative. We want to be faithful to the Lord. Let me tell you something. But let me just share some information with you. I've talked to folks as they've grown older in this life, and I don't I don't recall anyone in their latter years expressing concern, expressing sorrow because they lived a faithful life.

I've never had somebody express concern and sorrow because they reared their children in the Lord. But I can't think of a family right now. I can think of a mom and dad, both deceased now. They had a business. Times were good. Things were flourishing. The problem was they weren't locked in on the Lord. They weren't as faithful as they should have been.

And sadly, as they grew older, their children wandered away from the Lord. And they said to me one time, if we had it to do over again, we'd do it differently. Be faithful. You live a faithful life in Christ Jesus. When the Apostle Paul came to the end of his life here on planet Earth, you remember he said, the time of my departure is at hand.

I'm already being offered. He said, I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course, finished the race. And he said, I've kept the faith. And so Paul was saying to Timothy, his son, in the faith, here's what you need to know. I've been faithful to the Lord. I have stayed with him day in, day out. Here's what Paul said in first Corinthians chapter 15.

In verse 58 he writes, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For as much as you know that your labor is not vain in the Lord. I want to encourage you as a mom, as a dad, as a husband, as a wife. You be faithful to God, be faithful day in and day out and listen.

If you taught your children right. And maybe if they're not living as they should, you encourage them. You let them know you're praying for them, and you encourage them to get back to the truth that they had been taught as a young person. That's important. Now, there's a final thing I want to share with you. It has to do with our future.

Again, the goal is to go to heaven, isn't it? Now, the psalmist began by saying many, many years ago. Except the Lord build the house those who labor labor in vain. Our goal is to go to heaven in that particular context. The psalmist talks about the psalmist talks about how children are a heritage from the Lord. He said, the fruit of the womb is his reward.

As a mother, father, husband, wife. We're blessed with children, aren't we? But what we want most of all is for our children to one day be in the presence of God with us. Now, that won't happen by accident. No, it's going to take determination, dedication. In other words, it's going to take resolve on our part to live that faithful life and to keep our eyes on the prize.

You remember Jesus said on one occasion, revelation chapter two and verse ten. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Now he's talking about being faithful in the face of persecution. And if you have to give your life for the cause of Christ, then what the Lord was saying is, you be faithful even in the face of death, and you'll get the crown of life.

But we also want to be faithful until death. I go back again and look at what Paul said. Paul said, I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race of the course. I have kept the faith. He said, henceforth there's a letter for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will get to me.

And that day, not to me only, but also to all who've loved disappearing. What are you saying, Paul? Paul saying. Look, I've lived a faithful life before the Lord. I've sought to serve him day in and day out. And this is not some think so. Hope so. Maybe so. Proposition now. I know, I know that there is a letter for me, a crown of righteousness.

Now Paul said, look, that kind of righteousness. It's not just for me, but you have one as well. If you live a faithful life, you can be crowned. You can be owned by the Lord, the crown of life, the victor's crown, the stephanos. To know that we live for God faithfully. And now we're home with him eternally. To be in that land where there's no more death, no sorrow, no crying nor pain.

All these former things passed away. Don't you want to go to heaven? Peter said, we have an inheritance. It is incorruptible. It's undefiled. It fades, not away. And he said, it's reserved in heaven for you. I hope you've made preparation to go to heaven. That you believe Jesus to be the Son of God. You do repent of your sins, confess his name, be buried with him in baptism for the forgiveness of your sins.

Acts two, verse 38. And then be faithful. God bless you until we meet again next week.

Amen.