

HAPPY HOMES, STRONG FAMILIES

Introduction

- 1) *“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”* (Joshua 24:15)
- 2) The **home** is one of the most important institutions created by God
- 3) It is also one that is in great trouble today (more than banks, car companies, etc.)
 - a) Many people today cannot even define what a “home” or a “family” is according to God
 - b) Troubles in a home can be so well hidden that few others know they exist
- 4) Happy homes and strong families are desperately needed today in the church and our society
- 5) What are some basic elements of happy homes and strong families?

I) **CONVICTION**

- A) The strong home will be built on a full confidence in God’s truth (Psa. 119:160, 105)
 - 1) Abraham’s home (Gen. 18:19); create this conviction early (Eccl. 12:1; Prov. 22:6)
 - 2) Full assurance in the Bible as the complete, absolute, inerrant truth of God (Jn. 17:17)
 - 3) Creates trust in a mate or family member who is faithful to God in all things
- B) Complete trust in and love for God and His word provides a central “hub” of conviction to ground and stabilize everyone in the home (Prov. 1:7; Deut. 6:4-9)
 - 1) Each one understands his goal in life – fear and serve God (Eccl. 12:13)
 - 2) Ultimate focus of home – seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness (Matt. 6:33)
 - 3) A happy home is one that is fully assured of its spiritual goals and heavenly focus
- C) A home that embraces doubt and skepticism about truth invites the devil’s confusion and divisiveness (lack of unity – everyone goes their own way; Mk. 3:25)
 - 1) Parents show little interest in Bible study while prioritizing earthly knowledge
 - 2) Grumble about strong Bible preaching and encourage broad, “liberal” thinking
 - 3) Ignore standards of morality that regulate holy conduct – conform to world
 - 4) Family willing to cast truth aside to defend, ignore, or hide their own sin (1 Sam. 2:29)

II) **CONSTANCY**

Constancy = the quality of being faithful and dependable

- A) Every home needs to be consistent [diligent] in serving God (1 Cor. 15:58)
 - 1) Training of children (Deut. 6:7; Eph. 6:4)
 - 2) Holy and blameless living (Psa. 101; 1 Jn. 1:7)
- B) The focus of the home must never be compromised – serve God always! (Josh. 24:15)
 - 1) Mates must be united in purpose and children must understand their role
- C) Inconsistent spirituality and obedience is destructive poison to a home
 - 1) Forsake the assembly of saints for worldly endeavors (confuses children)
 - 2) Ungodly in attitude and action at home while “pious” at worship (hypocrisy)
 - 3) A strong home and family is not created by “fly-by-seat-of-your-pants” (Prov. 24:3-4)

III) **CONSIDERATION**

- A) Happy homes are made up of those who are considerate of one another
 - 1) Patient, willing to yield, gentle, temperate, loving, time-giving (Gal. 5:22; Col. 3:12-13)
- B) Selfishness will guarantee an unhappy home with alienated members
 - 1) Serve “me” first, “your” opinions are worthless, be nothing without “me,” etc.
 - 2) Causes anger, envy, strife, bitterness, revenge, evil desires (Col. 3:18-21)

Conclusion

Everyone wants a **happy family** and a **strong home**, but few are willing to do their part to make it so. It is a full effort by the husband, wife, and children for the good of all. Good homes help to make good churches. Obey God and serve him at home and everywhere!