

The Christian Home - Determine to Have a Christian Home - Col. 3:12-21

A part of our Church Covenant states, “*We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion...*” The Lord has burdened my heart to teach the next several Wednesday evenings on what it means to have a Christian Home. A house is a place, but a home is made of people. **A Christian Home is a home where people are living their Christian faith each day.** In every physical house that is built, the cost of the house depends on the quality of the material used. They are all built for the same purpose, but it costs more to have a better house because of the quality of the materials. **Many people are working hard on their home life but are simply using the wrong materials.** There are 3 homes that we all need: a Heavenly Home, a good Church Home, and a Christian Home. If you have trusted Christ as your Saviour and attend this Church, then you have 2 out of 3 covered already. But Satan is real, and families are falling apart everywhere. **We all need to determine to have a Christian Home!**

As we teach on this subject, keep in mind that there are families that have no children in the home. Many principles I will be teaching on will refer to examples being set for the children. Even though there may not be children in your home, if you plan to have children someday, you need to have these principles in place before they ever come on the scene, or it will make it much more difficult to begin them after you haven't been practicing them. You can always make a change by the help of God, but it would be a whole lot better to have things biblical before children enter the home. Even if your children are grown, or you don't see them very often, when they do come and visit, they need to see a Christian Home. Also, the children at this Church need to see these biblical principles in your life so that you can be an example to them! **So, what makes a home Christian? If the father is a Christian? If the mother is a Christian? If everyone in the home attends Church? Let us look at our text tonight and examine what the Bible has to say...**

1. The Ingredients of a Christian Home - Verses 12-16a

Verses 12-16 contain a remarkable list of things we need to practice. I don't have the time to discuss them all, but I do want to look at a few that I believe are key ingredients to have in the home...

- A. **Forgiveness** - Decide when you get married that you are going to forgive one another. Make forgiveness a part of your life. Marriage must be a forgiving relationship. Eph. 4:32. We are to forgive because Christ has forgiven us for all our sins! Forgiven people are forgiving people. **The definition of forgive is to overlook an offense and treat the offender as not guilty.** Do not “keep score” and then bring it up later!
- B. **Peace** - A place of peace with the *peace of God* ruling in your hearts. **The Christian Home is not a battleground, but a refuge. It is not a place of fighting, but rather a place of fellowship.** Phi. 4:7. If your home is a place of battling and fighting, it is not a Christian Home according to the standard of God's Word. Now I'm not saying there won't be some arguments, but ultimately, the *peace of God* should rule in your hearts; as a husband and wife both mature in the Lord, the arguments will become less often and not last as long - the *peace of God* will rule.
- C. **Thankfulness** - It is so easy to become ungrateful and gripe and complain. We allow ourselves to become critical and criticism is contagious - it leads to an ungrateful spirit. In a Christian Home, people do not gripe about what they have to eat, they thank God they have something to eat. They do not gripe about what they have to wear, they thank God they have something to wear. They do not complain about one family member or another, they just thank God that they are all still alive, living under the same roof, and able to enjoy one another's company. **Be thankful for the time that you are together as a family on this earth - enjoy it!** 1 Thes. 5:18.

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D. **The Word of God** – Many homes do not have God’s direction because they do not have the Word of God dwelling in them richly. Hide God’s Word in your heart, place Bible verses and Christian decorations on the walls, take time to read the Bible with your family. Deut. 6:6-9. Many say they have a Christian Home, but if these ingredients are not found, then we cannot call it a Christian Home. **These ingredients may seem simple, but they make a world of difference!**

2. **The Instruction in a Christian Home – Verses 16b-17**

Verses 16-17 contain what we should be teaching in our homes. The word *admonishing* means to counsel against wrong practices; to caution or advise people. What should we be teaching and admonishing in our homes?

A. **Christ-Honoring Music** – There should be no worldly music playing in your home that dishonors the Name of Christ or goes against anything in His Word. Families need to sing together. We have allowed the television to keep the family from coming together. **You may think your child has everything they need in their room – a television, phone, headphones; but you have no idea what they are doing, listening to, or watching. This is the most ridiculous thing parents can do for their children. Your children should never listen to music in your home that you cannot hear or have not personally approved!** We should be teaching Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs! I don’t care if the public-school system has converted to this digital drug age or not, a 10-year-old is not old enough to have a smartphone or any electronic device in their room alone unsupervised, period. We need to stop allowing the devil to babysit our children, and we all need to be responsible, Christian parents!

B. **The Love of Christ** – There is a difference between *word* and *deed*. People say they are against adultery, but then laugh at some television program that promotes it. Your children are watching you, and you just taught them that it is not so bad after all. You may say you are against ugly language, but you laugh at the filthy jokes of your unsaved family or co-workers. **It is one thing to say it, but it is another thing to live it.** You should not do anything you do not want your children doing or watch anything you do not want your children watching. In a Christian Home, there is no such thing as, “you are not old enough.” **God’s principles are the same no matter how old you are! Certain things need removed from homes, but the Christian Home is determined more by what goes into it than what is taken out of it.**

C. **Accountability to Christ** – Teach your children that we are all accountable to Christ. Mom and dad must answer to the Lord, and the children must also answer to the Lord. There are times that your children may be alone at home, or alone in the other room. What are they going to do when you are not there beside them? If you have taught them to be accountable to Christ, they will eventually realize that even when parents are not present, they must answer to the Lord! When what our children want and what Christ wants come into conflict, we should choose what the Lord wants over what they want. When we do that, we teach them that being accountable to Christ is more important than anything else. The Bible teaches us that every man shall give an account of himself to God (Rom. 14:12). Instruct your family to live knowing that each day we are all accountable to God.

3. **The Individuals in a Christian Home – Verses 18-21**

Verses 18-21 contain the responsibility of each individual within the Christian Home, and God has a word for every individual...

A. **Wives** – For the wife, the word that God gives is *submit*. Eph. 5:21-24. Think of the word serve. There is a mutual submission in our loving care for one another, but the wife is to submit to her husband’s leadership. **A wife who is not submissive teaches rebellion to her children by her behavior. This not**

only is a sin against the Lord and your husband, it is a sin against your children. Your husband may not be all that he should be, but God's word for a woman in a Christian Home is *submit*. If there is a wife who is a Christian, but she does not submit to her husband, that is not a Christian Home.

- B. Husbands** – For the husband, the word that God gives is *love*. Love is a commitment. It is possible for a man to be so committed to his wife that he does not allow his eyes to wander because he loves his wife and is committed to her. **You can be a Christian man and be married, but if you do not love your wife even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; (Eph. 5:25), you do not have a Christian Home.** This means that husbands are to make the commitment to their wives that Christ has made to the Church: *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee* (Heb. 13:5).
- C. Children** – For the children, the word that God gives is *obey*. Wives are to submit, husbands are to love, and children are to obey. Eph. 6:1-4. **Honor has to do with attitude and obedience has to do with action.** As children grow, there is a conflict between becoming adults and obeying mom and dad. It is important to bring your children up *in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*, and then allow the Lord to convict them over obedience, while you remain consistent in punishing them for disobedience.
- D. Fathers** – Notice that God did not stop after this word to the children, but commanded to the fathers, *provoke not your children to anger*. **Fathers can provoke their children with unrealistic expectations.** There are no perfect children, yet so many parents place their children on such high pedestals. We want our children to do right and to live under right standards, but we should not post all over Facebook about how wonderful our children are all the time. When people meet them they should say, "This boy or girl is even better than I expected." Sometimes men and women try to re-live their failures through their children and they want them to be everything that they have not been. **Fathers can also provoke their children by hypocrisy.** Your children know what you are. When parents wear a mask and pretend to be something they are not, the children know it. This provokes children to anger and discourages them. **Fathers can provoke their children by having an unforgiving spirit.** Allow your children to get over their mistakes; do not continually remind them of their failures. Notice that God connects anger and discouragement; angry children will become discouraged children.

Children should obey, but fathers shouldn't provoke them. Wives should submit, but husbands must love them. We all need the Lord's help to have a Christian Home! Our time on earth is so short, and our families are so precious. We should be sure that we have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, and then begin to seek God's help in having a Christian Home.

Home Work

- Make your home a place of peace, not a battleground.
- Eliminate murmuring and complaining from your home.
- Take time to read God's Word and pray together as a family each day.
- Fill your home with music that honors Christ.
- Do not laugh at things that you have told your children are sinful.
- Teach your children that we are all personally accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Wives: Submit to the leadership of your husband, even if he is not all he should be.
- Husbands: Love your wives and make this commitment, "*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*"
- Do not provoke your children to anger by unrealistic expectations, hypocrisy, or an unforgiving spirit.