

INTRODUCTION

The home should be a refuge in time of trial, a stimulus for personal growth, a hospital for healing the wounded, a haven for the weary, a hearth to warm the cold and lonely, an inn for the stranger and the needy, a meeting place for the brethren and an open door for all those who want to enter unexpectedly. The home is to be solidly built on Jesus Christ, the cornerstone. From mansions to tents, God has placed most of His children in dwelling places, which He expects them to use as resources for hospitality, evangelism and ministry.

- I. The Bible teaches that *every* Christian is to develop a *lifestyle* of serving God's eternal purposes by giving of himself and his resources in service to Him and to others. (John 15:16)
 - A. The home is one of God's resources to be used for the advancement of His kingdom purpose.
 - B. The Bible teaches that the home is a key place for ministry. The early disciples' homes were integral to the work and gathering of the church. (Acts 2:46)
- II. The Scriptures also teach that the home is the place where the family lives.
 - A. The family is defined in terms of
 1. bloodline: father, mother and their children.
 2. faith.

“Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.”

Mark 3:35

- B. The home may be the abode for either type of family as long as
 1. the commands of Scripture are not violated.
 2. the *appearance* of evil is avoided.
- C. The Christian home is to be characterized by love and submission to God's truths, as defined in the following passage:

***“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love,
I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and
know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith,
so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do
not have love, it profits me nothing.*”**

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*Love is patient, love is kind,
and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,
does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked,
does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness,
but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...*

1 Cor. 13: 1-8a NASB

III. The home is a God-given *resource* to be used for His purposes.

- A. It is to be a place where husband and wife learn to live by biblical principles.
(Eph. 5:21-33; 1 Cor. 13:4-8)
- B. It is to be a place where the parents train their children to love by biblical principles, teaching them
 - 1. that love of God and love of others should be their primary focus. (Matt. 22:37-40)
 - 2. that the home is to be used for ministry.
- C. It is to be a place where singles must live by biblical principles, learning
 - 1. to love and to serve each other.
 - 2. to minister in their homes to believers and unbelievers.

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you,
so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you
are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

John 13: 34,35

- D. It is to be a place where “being” relationships are developed among those who live there.
 - 1. Vulnerability—emotionally open; imparting one life to another
(1 Thess. 2:8)
 - 2. Accountability—a mutual encouragement to grow spiritually through
admonishment, forgiveness, confession and support (1 Thess. 5:14; Jas. 5:16;
Eph. 5:21)
 - 3. Availability—being willing to be inconvenienced to serve and to help one another
(Gal. 5:13)
 - 4. Discipleship—encouraging each other to reach toward God's goals of personal
holiness and Kingdom purpose (Matt. 6:33)

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“...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...”

Heb. 10:24 NASB

- E. It is to be a place where “doing” relationships are developed among those who live there, such as
1. worshiping together.
 2. praying together.
 3. learning about God's Word together.
 4. encouraging one another.
 5. ministering together.
 6. evangelizing.
 7. cooperating in tasks that aid one another.
 8. eating meals together.
 9. participating in activities together.

IV. The Bible teaches that the home is to be a haven of hospitality from which ministry flows.

“Be hospitable to one another without complaint.”

1 Pet. 4:9 NASB

- A. Christians are commanded to be hospitable without grumbling or complaining.
- B. Christians are commanded to be hospitable to
1. the brethren. (Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9)
 2. the stranger; both believers and unbelievers. (Matt. 25:35; Heb. 13:2)
 3. the needy: the poor, the lame, the blind, the lowly, and the unlovely and the unlovable. (Luke 14:12-14; Deut. 14:29)

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“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

Rom. 12:9-16

V. The home is to be a place where guests are drawn into the “being” and “doing” relationships of those who live there.

A. It is to be the *arena* in which love is the goal of biblical instruction.

“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

1 Tim. 1:5 NASB

B. It is to be **a place of welcoming love!**

“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:46,47