

THE HOME THAT PLEASES GOD
PROVERBS 12: 5, 7

S.W. May 10, 1977 P.M. WXR
Mother Day
S.W. May 8, 77 P.M. WXR
Mother Day

INTRODUCTION

To Back up the claim that the
husband should help with
the dishes - a wife showed
him this scriptural passage -
"2 Ki 21:13" And it will wipe
Jerusalem as a man wipeth
a dish, wiping it, & turning
it upside down"

The verse at least indicates
that man does the job thoroughly
when he does do it.

between the wicked and the righteous

being superficial, the other genuine.
being malicious, the other being

the house of the wicked shall fall.
and support in this experience of the
of the righteous shall stand secure.

the symbol of eternity. With the
look forward to and in old age we
place here. This is the place

one, but three.

First, there is the home where he lives. Be it every so humble, there's
no place like it. The father's kingdom, the mother's world, the child's
paradise.

Second, your church home. The place of public worship, united prayer.
The place where you meet with Christ and you learn about God. This should be
a sweet place of fellowship in every Christian's life.

Third, the heavenly home, where no storms ever beat while the years of
eternity roll by.

→ On this Mother's Day, we think especially about the first of the three
homes, the one where you now live. The great purpose should be that your
home please God.

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INTRODUCTION

These verses set forth a wide contrast between the wicked and the righteous especially in their home.

V. 5 First in the matter of thoughts, One being superficial, the other genuine.

V. 6 Second, in the matter of words, One being malicious, the other being beneficial.

V. 7 Third, with respect to their ends. The house of the wicked shall fall. The house of righteous shall stand. We find support in this experience of the ages. Here then is God's truth. The house of the righteous shall stand secure.

Matthew 7:34

Deuteronomy 6:1-15

The home is the center of all time and the symbol of eternity. With the human race, making a home is something we look forward to and in old age we look back upon. All human experience takes place here. This is the place where love makes labor count.

Home is dated from the very start of man.

Every Christian has three homes. Not one, but three.

First, there is the home where he lives. Be it every so humble, there's no place like it. The father's kingdom, the mother's world, the child's paradise.

Second, your church home. The place of public worship, united prayer. The place where you meet with Christ and you learn about God. This should be a sweet place of fellowship in every Christian's life.

Third, the heavenly home, where no storms ever beat while the years of eternity roll by.

→ On this Mother's Day, we think especially about the first of the three homes, the one where you now live. The great purpose should be that your home please God.

I. The Purpose of the Home

1. First of all, it is spiritual. Think back when God inaugurated the home in the Garden of Eden. Everything was lovely and fair.

Out of the dust of the earth, God made the body of man. Out of the man he created the helpmate, the woman.

This is God's supreme institution. It was first in time, before the church, before the school, the state. Malachi 2:15, God organized the home and placed it here in the world that it might preserve a Godly seed. As Psalms 16:6, that there might be goodly heritage.

The home is the trustee of the faith. Divine grace is here perpetuated. Psalms 145:4. One generation shall praise thy works to another and declare thy mighty acts.

From age to age, in the old time, the Godly homes served as a channel of grace.

The first and second chapters of Genesis tells the story of the home. Genesis 2:18-24. Man and woman were to meet each others needs. He did not make them after the order of lower of animals, but in His own image and likeness. These two were parents of the race. They were commanded to be fruitful and multiply. Children, then, were considered a gift from God. Genesis 4:1. And a promise was given that these children should bring joy to the parents.

Psalms 127:3. "Lo, children are a heritage. He describes a happy home," "Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord and walks in His ways, for thou shall eat the labor of thine hands. Happy shall thou be and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be assa fruitful vine by the sides of thine house. Thy children, like olive plants, round about thy table" Psalms 128:1-3.

Parents were trained to discipline their children. "These words I command thee this day shall be in thine heart. Teach them diligently

unto thy children and talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Children were ~~to be~~ taught to respect and honor their parents, and parents were responsible for leading their children into the ways of worship.

2. The second purpose, then, we note, is biological. God said "Be fruitful and multiply" Now life is not created here, but life is transmitted. In the home, as everywhere else, all of life comes from God and every for his glory. Parents are not authors of life in their little ones. Parents are the transmitters of such life and then become guardians. Therefore parents may decide to life in the country, in the town, in the city. No one can select the family in which he is born. Of necessity, every man or woman anywhere must belong to some family. Psalms 68:6.

Of course the home is educational. It is an institution. It teaches human virtues by authority and discipline. The Bible says we are to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That means, with discipline that pleases God. We are to teach them the things of God and the truths of God in the Bible. Train them in the ways of obedience.

The average probably thinks of a home as a place where parents and children live together. However, this does not cover all of life. Often the children have gone away to school or married by the time the parents are in their mid forties. Then, there are some couples who never have children, or there are others who have broken homes. But it's the place where we dream of the ideal.

II. The Power of the Home

Because it is an honored institution on the earth, it has great power.

The first nursery was a home. The first school was a home. The first hospital. The first manufacturing establishment. The first religious society was organized in a home dedicated to God.

The home has power in two or three directions.

First, it has power nationally. In the national light of this nation, the home is our first line of defense.

It is not our navy, our army, our airplanes, submarines, bombs, missiles. These may seem necessary and vital, but homes that are pleasing to God are the first line of national defense.

The integrity, the durability, the morality of this nation is decided, molded, by the influence of this home. This nation is never going to rise above the spiritual level of our homes.

The present or the absence of homes pleasing to God go far in determining the future of our people.

Those who seek to elevate, dignify, purify and sanctify the homes will do more for this nation than all the statesman that every lived. We must make life count in this area.

It is not enough that we found and maintain a home for the sake of the home itself. The world's work and the nation waits for the graduates of our homes. As a person wrote a young mother, "May God give you a vision with your baby boy for the man of the future who is now so helplessly all your own." The man in his work must be ever kept before the mother as she sees that he has something to offer in the future.

There never was a more critical time for it than when young people go out to try themselves in the world. The Home has power to project itself into the lives of those who go out to build a nation.

The story is told of George Washington, when he was elected president of the U.S., He left his business associates, the affairs of government and went back home to see his old mother. A quiet hour in her presence

meant new life for the difficult duties just ahead. It was a strengthening of the soul and a rededication of the spirit, to the purposes he had formerly learned from her. This saves a boy or girl from a life of selfishness and unlovely development.

2. The power in the second place goes out socially. The home that pleases God is a training ground for all of life's relationships. The first impression the child gets about marriage comes from his own father and mother. As in everything else, the home molds character.

What we permit little children to see and to hear in our home determines life for them tomorrow.

In Vermont, a rural pastor, Arthur Hewitt says that one day after church, he took a high school girl to her home. The road skirted a beautiful lake. At her request, I stopped at what appeared to be little more than a shack. The look of surprise on his face led her to say, defenseively, "I know it's not much to look at, but it's a wonderful place to see from of things that are far away and things that are near. A generation ago reminders were placed on the walls, "Christ is the head of this house, the unseen guest at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation." That was a popular resolution. The use of mottos seem to have scriptural background. Deuteronomy 11:20. "And thou shalt write them upon the doorposts of thy house and upon thy gates.

3. In the third place, the home has power spiritually. Behind all, beyond all, beneath all, above all is this power. The home can fill the child's mind with the truth of God. It can direct the child toward doing the will of God. It can create habits and impressions and ideals that will never die.

A man said, "I tried to be an atheist. When I reached the point of denouncing my faith, I seemed to feel my mother's hand on my head and to hear her prayers. "God bless and keep my boy." From this influence of a Godly mother, this grown man could never get away.

Ruben A. Torrey, an evangelist, said, "I grew up in a Godly home, but I was ungodly. I reached young manhood ungodly, unsaved, careless about things of the soul. I went away from home unsaved. Mother's words were in my ears, "Ruben, when the way is dark, son, call upon God, call upon God."

"I wondered far, furthered than I had ever dreamed I would wander. Then one night in a hotel room, I planned to commit suicide. I made preparation and the words of my mother, "Ruben, when the way is dark, son, call upon God, call upon God." Then in the depths of despair in my hotel room I knelt by my bed and called upon God and, instead of taking my life, I gave my life to the Lord Jesus.

No child will ever get away from the influence of a Christian mother and a Christian father.

Howard Walter was on a walking tour of Japan. He stopped one night at a lovely Japanese inn. He was entertained by Geisha girls and offered the delights of immoral pleasures. But the young man thought of the family altar at home, how they were praying for him. It was hard for him to turn down the temptations. He went to his room and wrote the song that begins with these words, "I would be true for there are those who trust me, I would be pure, for there are those who care."

Later, he became a missionary and burned his life out on a foreign field. But it was the power of the Christian home that kept him pure.

Abraham trained his house to trust God. Genesis 18:19.

Ruth's love for Naomi is considered one of the best stories. In the true sense, it solves all family problems including that of in-laws.

Ruth 1: 16.

Joseph's care for his father and brothers, even after evil treatment, is an example of forgiving love that solves many family problems. Genesis 45:1-15.

Solomon's tribute to motherhood is a classic. Proverbs 31:10-31. These speak of spiritual power.

III. The Protection of the Home

This is also illustrated from the word of God. Eli is a tragic example of the results in homes where children are neglected and not properly disciplined. I Samuel 3; 13. Jacob began his home in the spirit of love, but his desire for material things led him into dishonesty. Genesis 30:35.

David abounds with courage but his passion at last overcomes him.

"He that spareth his rod, hateth his son" Proverbs 13:24. "But he that loveth him, chasteneth him betimes." Temporary pain, used with a child, is many times the only way punishment of permenant character can be built.

Pain teaches. Even a doctor will tell you that one of the great protections of the human body is pain, which warns a man of danger in some organ. A child may be deprived of some pleasure, but the switch is an indispensable asset in correcting certain forms of disobedience on the part of younger children.

Senator Lee used to humorously tell of the motto on the wall of his old home which read, "I need thee every hour." "That's the one mother always hung the switch over," he commented.

Whatever form punishment is given, it is better understood than nagging.

The proverb, "It hurts me worse than it hurts you" from parent to child is honestly true. The parent never lets the child lose sight

of his love. Some men were talking about the problems of this day. They concluded that they were greater today than at any age and that it was going to take greater men to solve those problems. Therefore, before God, they were determined to be some of those greater men. This is the thing Christian fathers and mothers can do.

Many years ago, a man and his wife and his little son went from Seattle into the Klondike seeking gold. The parents found gold and became wealthy. The son was killed. Eventually the two returned to Seattle. A reporter asked them about their wonderful wealth. They asked the father and mother did they get the gold? "Yes, we got the gold, but we lost our boy."

"What shall it profit a father and mother if they gain the whole world and lose their own son? We might succeed in the school, in the state, in science, in space, but ~~that~~ ^{what} will compensate for our failures with the children in the home. This is the biggest failure of all.

Every living thing in this world has its enemy. The grass, the tree in the forest, the fowl in the air, the fish in the sea, ~~The~~ (home is no exception.) By day, by night, by summer, by winter, prosperity, adversity, a thousand enemies assault the home! They're external pressures and internal pressures to conform to society. There's friction, strife, emotional immaturity, incompatibility, the dirt, debt, and the devil.

Everyone who has any concern about the welfare of America will note the signs of disintegration in family life. The best tradition of the home are threatened by grave dangers. Marriage problems, training of children, family unity. This is a grave situation. And this continues with quarreling parents and neurotic children and disharmony and divisions. In the Old Testament, the family was the basic unit of society. Joshua 7:16 The same situation in China. In our nation, home is often a restaurant or dormitory. It's not a center where people meet and talk.

We should remember Gibbon in his opinion on the things that brought Rome down. It wasn't the outside opposition but one of the classic things he said was the home that perished, disintegrated.

Your parents can't have it both ways. You can't grumble at your children, at 16, don't care about the things that matter, if when they were 6, they had no reason to suppose that you cared about them. Sometimes parents whine and they say "Look at John, look at Mary." They're going wild." Those same parents forget that they themselves had an anchor in childhood, in parents, but they regarded the anchor as narrow-minded and out-of-date.

A one woman said, "I don't know what my mother would have said if she saw my children." Well, I think she would have told her to do the same for those that she had done by her.

The protection of the home is a definite link with the church. Don't suppose that your home can be maintained by just Christian ethics. Christian worship is necessary but in most cases it is decaying. How unreasonable most people are. They cut off their family from the church, the ideal of living. It's just like cutting an apple tree limb off in the late summer. You say, "Now why doesn't the fruit go ahead and mature? It shrivel up and there is no harvest or a pitiful harvest!" Now why should you be surprised the outcome of your home?

What I'm saying is that I don't want you to look back and say, "I wish things had been a little different in my home. I wish they could have been like my old home." You cannot go back. You've got to do something about the situation now and go on from this point where you are. A real live Christian can bring to a difficult family situation a basic hope.

Do we have any protection? Any safeguards? Are we left helpless? Warm christian love, father and mother, patience and confidence.

Galatians 5:22. "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, against such

there is no law." Now

Now the matter of discipline is not easy. Hoodlumism does not originate only in slums. Make no mistake about it. Anarchy and juvenile and all the evil train that afflict and curses our society today. All of these come out of homes. Homes that do not exercise authority, discipline and a spirit of Christ-like love. Discipline is not a matter of where you live. They need to learn self-control.

I Kings 1:6. Adonijah, a little known son of King David. The son was guilty of disrespect and disloyalty. His father had never checked him all his life by asking him what he meant by his conduct. The record says that he was a very handsome fellow. Now, that is the Bible explanation. Rebellion, handsome, spoiled, young man whose father did not check up on him. This brought sorrow. What would you say to a person, "The Bible teaches me that I am to honor my father and mother." Yes. "I want you to tell me how to honor my father who is a drunkard. How can I honor my mother who is impure?" What could you say?

What would you say to the little boy who played with your little lad, never in his own back yard. say "I'd be glad to invite you over to my house but my mother stays so full of beer I don't know what she might do or say." How would you counsel a person like that?

What would you say to the son who says "In public my father acts like a saint but in our home he acts like the devil."

Now, this matter must begin with parents. They must learn self-control. This high-stepping, high-kicking, cocktail drinking drunken, carousing parents are to account for much of the misery of America. Now, you can expect from children who see their parents guzzling liquor, desecrating the Lord's day, reading sex magazines and doing God only knows what else. You can't fool these children.

Do we really believe the Bible? Are you ^{really} loyal to the home church?