

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE A CHRISTIAN HOME

Scripture, Deut. 6:1-9, 20-25

I. Because of the Contrast Between a Christian home and One which is NOT Christian.

A. Many people today do not sing "there's no place like home" because their memories of home are not pleasant memories.

B. The Marks of a Christless Home may be

1. of cursing, swearing, profane language

2. Drunkenness & intemperance

3. Gambling, carousing, and revelry

4. Fighting, quarreling, hatred

5. Cheating, lying

6. Children's personalities injured, crushed, or, to say the least, neglected.

7. Little or no sense of responsibility on part of parents to supervise the children or teach discipline, obedience, and respect.

(Judge asked father who admitted he did not know how his son had been spending his evenings, "Do you keep a horse? You know where it is every night, don't you?"

8. No place for spiritual or religious values or principles. Many parents are fooling themselves into thinking they can preserve their children's individuality and responsibility for choice by not identifying their children with any religion.

They do not dedicate them to the Lord or take them to church or Sunday school. They do not realize that they are actually giving their children a religion, and a poor religion at that. They are giving them the attitudes, values, and beliefs by which they live, and that is what religion is.

The day-by-day living of parents make up their religion, and it is this that they pass on to their children. The home is more basic than the church, and every parent is a better teacher of religion than any Sunday School teacher can ever be.

C. The Results of such a home

1. Its members drift apart from each other

2. No basis of appeal to religious faith or devotion.

3. No sense of a social unit;

danger of not being a part of a group,

no feeling of being needed, wanted,

or having something worth living for, working for,
and if necessary, worth dying for.

4. The foundation of the Nation crumbles.

a. "If homes are psychologically sound,"

observes Overstreet, in THE MATURE MIND,

"there is hope for our culture.

If homes are psycholigically unsound,

there is little hope."

b. What goes on in the homes of the world today
is what will go on in the world tomorrow.

II. WHEN THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE A CHRISTIAN HOME.

A. When life is lifted above the commonplace.

(One research organization found that the average person 70 years of age has spent 5 years dressing and shaving, $3\frac{1}{2}$ years at the telephone, 6 mos.

tying shoes, 3 years waiting for the rest of the fam!

B. When we enjoy there life's deepest experiences.

A home is where you find that which can keep the world from falling apart. Here we bring our resentments, our bruises from out of the world of competitive living for healing. Here is where you get life's real dial tone. Young and old come home like clocks to be wound up.

Persons.

C. When Parents Follow Practical Ways of Growing Sound

1. Loving the child for his own sake

2. Treating the child as an individual,
not belittling or ridiculing him.

3. Permitting the child to meet testings and decisions on his own level and helping him to develop skill and courage and loyalty to decency & truth.

D. When there is a recovery of family feeling

- *1. How a High School girl felt about her home.
- ✓2. What a serviceman away from home wrote his parents.

E. When there is a recovery of family religion

- 1. Thanks at table.
- 2. Devotions and prayer.
- 3. Give spiritual value in special occasions.
- 4. Attend worship services at church regularly as a family.

(Dr. Albert Schweitzer: "I cannot support the opinion of those who would not let the children take part in grown-up people's services until they to some extent understood them. The important thing is not that they shall understand but that they shall FEEL something of what is serious and solemn. The fact that the child sees his parents full of devotion and has to feel something of devotion himself, that is what gives the service its meaning to him.")

(See Philemon 1:2, "to the church in thy house")

F. When Parents realize their spiritual responsibility in relation to the children.

- 1. Recognize the child as the gift of God and give heartfelt thanks for God's blessing.
- 2. Dedicate the child to the Lord who gave him.
- 3. Pledge to bring up the child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- 4. Give the child every possible benefit of home, of school, & of the church.
- 5. Pray for the child & seek to lead him to Christ. Beiderwolf's story, "Bennie is safe home at last" (1,000 Ill. Webb, p. 114)
- 6. Live the example of a genuine Christian life in your home.
 - a. Luke 1:6, "They were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments & ordinances of the Lord."
 - b. Don't worry about being called "squares"!!

"The good old-fashioned mothers
and the good old-fashioned dads,
With their good old-fashioned lassies
and their good old-fashioned lads,
Still walk the lanes of loving
in their simple, tender ways,
As they used to do back yonder
in the good old-fashioned days.

They are growing old together,
arm in arm they walk along,
And their hearts with love are beating
and their voices sweet with song;
They still share their disappointments
and they share their pleasures, too,
And whatever be their fortune,
to each other they are true.

They are watching at the bedside of a baby pale and white,
And they kneel and pray together
for the care of God at night;

They are here in countless numbers,
just as they have always been,
And their glory is untainted
by the selfish and the mean.
And I'd hate to still be living,
it would dismal be and sad,
If we'd no old-fashioned mother
and we'd no old-fashioned day."

-- Edgar A. Guest.

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In one of our eastern cities was an engineer who had been on the road for a good many years. He was one day addressing a crowd of men among whom were many railroad men. In closing his address he said, "Men, I can't begin to tell you what Jesus has meant to me. Years ago on every night when I would finish my run I would pull open the whistle and let out a blast just as we came around the curve and I would look up to a small hill where stood a white cottage and there would be a little old man and a little old woman standing in the door-way. I would lean out of the old cab window and we would wave at each other, and as my engine would go shooting into a tunnel the old couple would turn and go back inside and the little old woman would say to the little old man, 'Thank God, father, Bennie is safe home tonight.'

"But at last the day came when we took mother out and laid her away and then each night as I came around the curve and blew the whistle the little old man would be at the door and I would wave to him and he would wave to me and then as my train shot through the tunnel he would turn and go slowly back into the cottage and say, 'Thank God, Bennie is safe home tonight.'

"But bye and bye the time came when we carried father out too and now when I finish my run although I pull open the whistle and let out a blast there are no dear ones to welcome me home. But when my work on earth is done, when the last run has been made and I have pulled the throttle and the whistle for the last time, as I draw near

to heaven's gate I know I shall see that same little old couple waiting there for me, and as I go sweeping through the gate I will see my dear old mother turn to my dear old father and hear her say,
"Thank God, father, Bennie is safe home at last!"

-- W. E. Biederwolf

To begin with, the family is to be saved by a recovery of a family feeling.

* A family feeling is the source of security of each person, adult and child. There is that inexpressible something one feels about loved ones at home. Here's how a high school girl, in the church where I served as the pastor, felt about her home. She wrote:

My home is more than four walls and a green roof and a cement foundation—my home is love and warmth and comfort and happiness—my home is a little lane off a busy highway—my home is a calm inlet near a crackling sea—my home is a star in an inky heaven. I guess it isn't any different from other homes—the water softener is broken, and the roof is leaky and the paint is crackling and the sidewalk is uneven and we have trouble with the furnace. No, it isn't different from thousands of other American homes but it's the place I love best because in it live the people I love best—for a house is made of stone and brick and wood and plaster but a home is made of human hearts, of tears, of laughter, of deep understanding—and I thank God that mine is just what it is!

One day while making a pastoral call, a mother said to me: "Will you read this letter? It's from Bob." I sat down and read the letter. When I had gotten half way through, I knew why she wanted me to read it. Bob was away in the service. This is what he said: "You know I have a feeling that I am coming home all right. I don't know why but I feel that God is taking care of that. What I want to say is:

When I do get home, I hope that, when we have finished dinner at night and we're all there at the table, we will just stay there and look at one another and realize for just a little while nothing else but the fact that we are there together. That's all I want."

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