

The Impact of Godly Homes upon the Church

1 Pet. 3:1-7

Introduction:

- A. Family life affects our spiritual life (vv. 1, 2, 7).
- B. Let's look at three features of homes that positively impact the church the most.

Discussion:

I. Spiritually United Homes

- A. Best accomplished by two Christians marrying and sharing same spiritual values.
 - 1. Both partners available for spiritual support in times of difficulty.
 - 2. Both parents available to properly train children (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 31:1; 2 Tim. 3:15).
- B. Spiritually united homes settle some very important questions that impact the church:
 - 1. Shall the children attend church? If so, where?
 - 2. Shall the children be loyal to the wishes of which parent?
 - 3. How shall we use our money? Spending? Giving?
 - 4. How shall we use our time? On the lake? At services?
- C. Spiritually divided homes cannot always be avoided, not should be (cf. Lk. 12:51-52).
 - 1. A partner obeys the gospel after the marriage.
 - 2. Parents or children obey the gospel – work to convert others.
 - 3. Should be handled in fear of God.
 - a. Marriage should not be broken (1 Cor. 7:10-16).
 - b. Christian should use wisdom to convert others (1 Pet. 3:1,2)

II. Spiritually Responsible Homes

- A. Where there is spiritual leadership – by teaching and example.
 - 1. Teach the word which produces faith (2 Tim. 1:5; Rom. 10:17).
 - 2. Demonstrate proper priorities (1 Pet. 3:1-5; Matt. 6:33).
 - 3. Training children in spiritual values (Eph. 6:4).
- B. Where there are opportunities for spiritual development.
 - 1. Opportunities for worship and spiritual work at home.
 - 2. Encourage Bible class homework as much as school homework.
- C. Where spiritual goals are emphasized even more than career goals.
 - 1. Young men begin early to qualify for church leadership.
 - 2. Young women begin early to qualify to be a wife of a leader.

III. Spiritually Differentiating Homes

- A. Homes that differentiate between the church and the home.
 - 1. Social activities is the responsibility of the home not the church (1 Cor. 11:22, 34).
 - 2. Recreational activities is responsibility of the home not the church.
 - a. Recreation is needed at times (cf. Mark 6:31)
 - b. Recreation director is not a function set in the church (cf. Eph. 4:12).
 - 3. General child development and education responsibility of the home not church (cf. Eph. 6:4)
- B. Homes that differentiate between popularity and propriety.
 - 1. In the way they adorn themselves.
 - 2. In the way they conduct themselves.

Conclusion:

- A. Spiritually strong homes translate into spiritually strong congregations.
- B. Spiritually strong individuals contribute to spiritually strong homes and churches.
- C. Spiritually strong individuals start with obedience to the gospel and being added to church.