

The Characters of The Christian Home Col. 3:18-21

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC

Sunday, Aug. 7th

We recently looked at the Characteristics of a Christian Home. By comparing our homes and hearts with the blueprint of God's word, we can see areas that need some "Home Improvement." Last week we expanded our "inspection" by discussing the "Characters" of the Christian Home.

The first "character" that the Bible addresses is the Wife. We've seen how the "Christian" wife should Cultivate an attitude of ...

1. **Submission and Support.** *"I will make an help meet for him"* Gen. 2:18

- The **Church** Is Her Example. Eph. 5:24
 - This Is An Act Of Obedience **To God!** (*Eph. 5:22; 1 Peter 3:1,2*)
 - This Is Part Of God's **Design.** (*Eph. 5:23; 1 Cor. 11:3*)
 - This "Tension" Is Part Of The Fall. Compare Gen. 3:16,17 With Gen. 4:7
 - This Requires The Grace Of God (James 4:5-8; Heb. 12:14,15)
- Luke 11:17 *"a house divided against a house falleth."*
Pr. 14:1 *"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down..."*

2. **AFFECTION** Titus 2:4

"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,"

A. TOWARD THEIR **HUSBANDS.** *"Love their Husbands..."*

The original word used here is philandros: meaning fondness or affectionate.

B. TOWARD THEIR **CHILDREN.** *"Love their children."*

The word love here is the Greek word philoteknos (*fil-ot'-ek-nos*) meaning maternal love.

C. NOTICE IN BOTH CASES THAT SUCH LOVE IS TO BE **TAUGHT.**

1) It is not always natural.

2) It is more than an emotion. (You cannot teach emotion!)

Pr. 16:3 *"Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established."*

3. **INSTRUCTION.** *"teachers of good things..." Titus 2:3*

A. The Mother is the Primary Teacher of her children. (EVERY CHILD IS HOME SCHOOLED!)

2 Tim 3:14,15 *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*

Pr. 6:20-24 *"²⁰My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: ²¹Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck; ²²When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. ²³For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: ²⁴To keep thee from the evil*

4. **PROTECTION:** "Keepers at home"

Titus 2:4,5 *"teach the young women to be ... keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

Keepers: *oy-koo-ros'* (a guard of the home) be "ware"); is, domestically inclined

"The Christian home is the Master's workshop where the processes of character molding are silently, lovingly, faithfully and successfully carried on."

FLEXIBILITY AND FOUNDATION

The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco is built directly over the San Andreas fault:

It is built to sway some twenty feet at the center of its one-mile suspension span. The secret to its durability is its flexibility that enables this sway, but that is not all. By design, every part of the bridge -- its concrete roadway, its steel railings, its cross beams -- is inevitably related from one welded joint to the other up through the vast cable system to two great towers and two great land anchor piers. The towers bear most of the weight, and they are deeply imbedded into the rock foundation beneath the sea. In other words, the bridge is totally preoccupied with its foundation. This is its secret! Flexibility and Foundation.

That's like a family: A mom and dad, twin towers of strength providing the family with a great foundation, bending at times to keep family members together. But they must be "anchored" in the Rock!!

DESTRUCTION OF SOCIETY

Sociologist and historian Carle Zimmerman, in his 1947 book *Family and Civilization*, recorded his keen observations as he compared the disintegration of various cultures with the parallel decline of family life in those cultures. Eight specific patterns of domestic behavior typified the downward spiral of each culture Zimmerman studied.

- * Marriage loses its sacredness; is frequently broken by divorce.
- * Traditional meaning of the marriage ceremony is lost.
- * Feminist movements abound.
- * Increased public disrespect for parents and authority in general.
- * Acceleration of juvenile delinquency, promiscuity, and rebellion.
- * Refusal of people with traditional marriages to accept family responsibilities.
- * Growing desire for and acceptance of adultery.
- Increasing interest in and spread of sexual perversions and sex-related crimes.

A HOUSE FOR OUR HOME

A reporter came to a fire one day where a house was steadily burning down to the ground. He noticed that there was a little lad standing by with his mom and dad. The reporter said, "Son, it looks like you don't have a home any more." The little boy answered courageously, "We have a home--we just don't have a house to put it in."

THE CHRISTIAN HOME:

The importance of the home cannot easily be overstated. It is the great world-fountain of health or disease, of medicine or poison. It is God's best workshop or the devil's best forge. It is a supreme factor in the salvation or ruination of our race. It is a determining factor in the solution of our many problems.

As is the home, so will be the church, state, and Nation. By weakening the pillars of the home in the "interest" of the state, ancient Greece sealed its own doom. Because of corruption in the families, the great Roman empire crumbled. Even today the threads of the destiny of our own great Nation are being silently woven (or destroyed) on the loom of our homes. Upon the walls of every institution and Nation which fails to include in its reckoning the home, no matter how festive or prosperous its appearance you can trace the solemn handwriting: "Thou has been weighed in the balance and found wanting."

In the home where the Gospel of Jesus Christ lives and reigns there will be a consciousness of the immeasurable privilege of true parenthood. A greater and holier work can scarcely be imagined than to build a home, to correctly rear a family, to root and ground one's own in the truth, and to send them out as living epistles to glorify their God. Someone once asked a Christian Mother, "Do you every do any writing?" She promptly replied, "Why yes, I have been working on two books for quite some time." "What will you call them?" came the surprised response. "John and Mary," she answered. "My business is to write upon the hearts and minds of my children the lessons that they will never forget."