

# **Bible Homes**

The home is the beginning and end of each person's day. The events that transpire within the walls of that dwelling place dictate much of what occurs in our society and where one will spend their eternity. Time is a key factor when considering a study of the home. Considering the fact that we sleep, eat, receive instructions, clean, participate in entertainment, and deal with family issues that arise one must admit that much time in life is spent in the home. The time each of us spend with family members in the home must take into consideration the spiritual and physical well being of each other. In other words, the family members must love each other. The Bible gives us all the instructions we need to have a happy and godly home. This article shall briefly examine the various roles in the family in light of God's word.

## **The Function of the Home:**

The first step to understanding the workings of the home is to understand that there are functions to perform. We noted above that the home is where instruction occurs (spiritual [Eph. 6:4] and secular [II Thess. 3:10-12]). The home is also where mutual love for each other is developed and nurtured (Eph. 5:28; 6:4; Titus 2:4). The home is where each family member will teach each other, by example, how to bring glory to the name of Jehovah God (i.e., making application of the instructions we have learned in the home; Jn. 15:10ff).

## **Roles within the Home:**

God has ordained roles within the home that the functions may be achieved. The word role is defined as "proper or customary function; the kind of action or activity proper to a person, thing, etc. the purpose for which something is designed or exists" (AHD 1068). Regarding the home, God has "designed" the husband, wife, and children to accomplish the functions in the home. The home may be viewed as a collective unit that has a leadership structure to follow that the functions may be achieved.

## **The Husband / Father**

The husband is instructed to be the "head of the wife" (Eph. 5:23). The word "head" simply means "chief, one to whom others are subordinate" (Moulton 229). The husband / father will take the lead in providing shelter, food, spiritual and secular instruction, love toward all family members, and motivating each member to bring glory to the name of Jehovah God.

## **The Wife / Mother**

The wife is instructed to be in "subjection" to the headship of her husband (Eph. 5:22). The word "subject" is defined as "to place or arrange under, to be subject, to be obedient" (LS 848). The godly wife will have no issues with the Lord's commands regarding being in submission to her husband. She will not be ashamed to call him her lord as Sarah did to Abraham (cf. I Pet. 3:6). The wife is considered the "help meet" (i.e., one who reciprocates the husbands

wishes and takes an intelligent part in achieving those desires) (Gen. 2:18). Her primary objective is the home (Titus 2:5). The wife will thereby help her husband in the areas of shelter, food, spiritual and secular education of children, provoking love in all family members, and motivating each member to bring glory to the name of Jehovah God.

### **Children in the Home**

Children are a blessing in the home (Ps. 127:3-5). The child has a part in the function of the home as well. Children are commanded to honor their father and mother (Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:2). When one gives another honor they are signifying their respect and view of high value (cf. LS 807). Children should look to their parents with respect and view them as very important. When such a view is practiced the child will willingly listen to instruction in the home and bring glory to God's name.

### **Concluding Thoughts:**

USA Today Magazine (Sept. 2001) reported that the divorce rate is currently at 51%. The May 2001 News Week article states that "the number of families headed by single mothers has increased 25 % since 1990, to more than 7.5 million households. Contributing to the numbers is a high rate of divorce and out-of-wedlock births." Nothing can change these numbers now; however, we can prevent these things from happening in the future if only we would use God's rule for the home. Though the world would say, "trying to conform to a single version of family life is not just doomed to failure, but unnecessary" (USA Today Magazine, Jan. 2001) let the Christian continue to use the 'one way' (i.e., God's way) so that our hope of heaven will become a reality for us and our children.