

A TRULY CHRISTIAN HOME

By Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. Deut. 6:6-9.

Throughout the Bible great emphasis is placed upon the homes and families of believers. The dwelling places were to stand out from the rest around them. The family was to be different, and the children clearly taught to live for God. Neighbors would know they were a Godly family dedicated in every way to obey God. I am afraid there are not many such families today. Very few take time to raise really godly kids, a spiritual family fully working to be a strong testimony for Godliness. In this message I want to point out our failures which outnumber our successes day by day. **(1). God In The Home:** *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?"* II Cor 6:14. Both husband and wife must be genuine believers. You will never have a Christian home while being pulled in two directions. The home depends on the leadership of its elders. You grandparents should still have great spiritual influence on your childrens families. Christ must be the head of your home (Col. 1:18), and His will sought out in every decision Matt. 6:33. Be sure you attach your home to a good church (Heb. 10:25&26) and present your family at

every service. Great homes result from great churches, and the fellowship of members together. If you feel no obligation to your church, you will have little spiritual victory in your home. **(2). Love In The Home:** *"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. Eph. 5:33.* You guys must live the kind of a life your wife can reverence, and wives must wrap their husbands in Godly love. Your kids need daily hugs, and your teens need warm attention. It is common to get so busy in personal things, that other family members are ignored. I have heard "My parents don't love me" in thousands of counselling sessions. To have a genuine Christian home, you must be constantly speaking of and showing your love to all the family. Also husband and wife need to share their love and affection for each other at bed time. **(3). Work In The Home:** *"By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of hands the house dropeth through."* Ecc. 10:18. Keeping a happy home takes lots of work. Mother is the specialist in cooking and cleaning and washing, and all the many things so the home can operate efficiently. There is nothing wrong with father helping out as he can in daily chores as a helper. Don't allow repeated chores to wear you down, but do them as unto the Lord. A successful home keeper is a treasure to all who live there. Dads first responsibility is working to support financially the needs of the family. *"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."* Rom. 12:11 Finding work and keeping the job has become a great source of frustration today. You kids can help in the work at home by keeping your own room neat and clean and helping out wherever. The shaping and bonding of a family makes the home an important place and daily class room. **(4). Children In The Home:** *"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand*

of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

Psa.127:3-5. Being fruitful is one of the blessings of the Lord, which God honors when the home is pleasing to Him. Every child is special, and has the potential of developing into a great adult for God. Actually your children are your most valuable possession on earth. Give them your parental love, and raise them carefully to desire a home like that in which they were raised. Guard them carefully through their teens, demonstrating faithful affection for your church, and the things of God. A daily family altar is a must to guide them into a blessed adult Christian life. **(5) Discipline In The Home.** *"Every man should bear rule in his own house."* Esther 1:22b. In a godly home it is true, "Father knows best." The leadership responsibility is upon the man of each family. He is number one accountable for the needs of the family. The home was not intended to be run by a woman with a milk toast "Yes dear" husband. All home leadership actions are assigned, and discipline responsibility. The wife certainly also bears a part in discipline importance. *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body."* Eph. 5:22-23. With her husband in the lead, the wife has much discipline opportunity with the kids growing up and home keeping responsibilities. *"Children obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right."* Eph. 6:1. Discipline is a commanded trait to be learned by the entire family. We must stop turning out rebellious teens, who will mess up their homes for the lack of training and example. **(6) Example In The Home:** *"Only take heed to thyself and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen,, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days*

of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons." Deut. 4:9. From your child's early days they have watched how you treat the things of God. Your spiritual actions and those not so spiritual are watched for years, as your kids mature. They hear every blow up, and spread the news far and wide among their school friends. Day by day they are molding their lives after the parents they love. The circle goes further to relatives and neighbors and workers on the job. All judge Christianity by what they see in the lives of believers. Make each day really count for God by being a great example, seen and known by all. **(7). Spirituality In The Home:** *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Prov. 22:6. Make sure your children are taught their sin nature, and be sure each one is saved for sure. They must see you daily reading the Bible, and know of your times of prayer. You must have a daily time of family devotions, which will gather the whole family around the Word of God. Discuss the problems, temptations, and challenge them to become something for God. My mother told me so many times she hoped I would become a preaching man of God. I can't understand some parents who allow their kids to wander into anything they seem to like, without urging them to consider what God really wants them to be. I am not saying all should be preachers, but there is a deadly shortage in every field of spiritual professionals. Be sure your children are baptized, take communion, and understand the life God expects them to live. Give your whole family support to a good fundamental, Bible preaching church and sit together every service. Your son's ballgame should never take preeminence over a church service. Guard against what the TV wants to do in destroying your home. *"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."* Psm. 19:14. **Spiritual homes picture our heavenly home above.**