

PRACTICING CHRISTIANITY AT HOME

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Ephesians 4:32](#). From Roy H. Enoch.
- B. Many sermons on the home start w/the emphasis on the wife being subject to the husband.
 - 1. Many seem to feel that if this single truth is firmly established, everything will fall into place in the Xian home.
 - 2. Some the most common failures in the home is not in knowing the principles of Xian behavior, but in the everyday applying them w/love and consideration.
 - 3. When one practices "Xianity" outside the home, but is a selfish monster at home, one has missed the teachings of God and the marriage and home is in serious trouble.
- B. Passages of Scripture that describe Xian behavior should be practiced first at home.
 - 1. Our mates and our children should be the first to see the spirit of X in our lives.
 - 2. Only by daily practice, can we polish "Xian skills" so that they are comfortable in public.
- C. Today we want to look at several passages that describe the kind of behavior we need for love and kindness at home and abroad.
 - 1. We want to try to see how we can apply these for the most benefit to our families.
 - 2. What we really are, is how we treat those we are the closest to in our everyday lives.

I. **EPHESIANS 4:32.**

- A. "Be kind to one another,"
 - 1. "better, easy, good, gracious and kind" are words that the KJV uses.
 - 2. Other synonyms for the word "kind" are "gentle, courteous, affectionate, considerate, tender and loving."
 - 3. Some think themselves kind by thinking of the nasty things that they don't do to others.
 - 4. But kindness is doing considerate and courteous things for others.
- B. Be "tenderhearted."
 - 1. It may surprise us that God commands us to be "tenderhearted."
 - 2. This means "well compassioned, i.e. sympathetic," or "weep w/them that weep."
 - 3. We must reach out to our mates and family in tenderness when they hurt and are down. Or do we ridicule them for showing feelings or troubling us with their problems (Gal. 6:2)?
 - 4. Few things bring a couple closer together than tenderly sharing burdens that deeply trouble them.
- C. "Forgiving one another. . ."
 - 1. Sometimes this is possible only after a real tender concern and genuine repentance.
 - 2. It is sometimes expected when only a selfish "I'm sorry," to get what one wants.

II. **COLOSSIANS 3:13.**

- A. "Bearing with one another. . ."
 - 1. This means "to put up with" and in the KJV, "bear with, endure, forbear, suffer."
 - 2. This Bible command means that we must be patient, tolerant and considerate, and especially, with our family.
 - 3. This means that you do not pout and lose your temper when every little thing doesn't go your way.
 - 4. A great part of love is to accept behavior that we do not like, (when it is not wrong) and love family, "warts and all."
- B. We must forgive in the same way that we want X to forgive us.
 - 1. This is the key to peace of mind.
 - 2. It is God's plan for pleasant interaction and happiness.

III. **1PETER 3:7.**

- A. "Giving honor to the wife."
 - 1. There are many couples who seem to delight in cutting each other down, esp. in public.
 - a. This is mean spirited and the opposite of love.
 - b. It reveals a lack of love and respect and often, a low self esteem.
 - c. Some never compliment their mate about anything.
 - 2. God's command to "respect" means "to value, to esteem (esp. to the highest degree) to give dignity," and in the KJV, "honor, precious, price, some."
 - a. This should be done by words and deeds.
 - b. This should apply to the wife also in having respect for the husband.

IV. **EPHESIANS 5:28,29.**

- A. "Nourish and cherish" our mates.
 - 1. This is another profound truth that is seldom presented from the pulpit or the classroom.
 - 2. To "nourish" is to develop and give proper care for well-being.
 - a. Some men are so vain that they are more concerned with developing their bodies than their wives.
 - b. Some are more careful to service the car in the garage than to nourish and care for their wife.
 - 3. Many do not "cherish" their mates.
 - a. They feel they own them like a golf cart for their own convenience and pleasure.
 - b. To "cherish" means to hold something w/tenderness and high regard as something very dear to them.
 - c. If more men paid as much attention to their mates as to sports and entertainment, there would be fewer unhappy marriages and the divorce rate would drop.

V. **GALATIANS 6:10.**

- A. If this command is practiced at home, it will change your life.
 - 1. "Do good" to your mate and there may be retaliation (after recovering from the shock).
 - 2. One of the most enjoyable forms of competition is trying to out-do-good to someone.
 - a. That has been one joy of living next "grandma and grandpa ".
 - b. (And being married to Martha.)
 - c. "If you want to get even with someone, try it on someone who did you a good turn."
- B. If we practiced this at home until it became a habit, we might do it at church.

VI. **MATTHEW 7:12.**

- A. No command is easier to say and harder to do.
 - 1. We admire the "Golden Rule" and sometimes practice the "Iron fist."
 - 2. Some talk the Golden Rule at church but practice a hard-hearted rule in business and home.
 - 3. When was the last time you tried to practice this **Bible command** for just 24 hours with your mate?
 - 4. Marriage counselors sometimes tell clients to go home and try to "out nice" each other.
 - 5. Have you ever heard of a couple who were breaking up because they were too nice to each other?
- B. This will help a church too.

VII. **GALATIANS 5:22.**

- A. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, . . ."
 - 1. What do you and your mate do for fun?
 - 2. Many who go to marriage counselors say that they do very few pleasant things with their mates.
 - a. To them, it is no joy to be w/ their spouses.
 - b. That is a good definition of personal failure.
 - c. The same ones often say the same about worshipping God: they don't get anything out of it.
 - 3. But when we follow God's instructions we will be happy (1Jn. 1:4).

CONCLUSION.

- A. We have not exhausted the passages that could be used to teach husbands and wives how to relate to each other.
- B. Apply God's plan to your life in your home and spiritual life for the greatest possible happiness here and hereafter.
- C. If you are not enjoying this kind of life, please recognize that you do have a problem.
- D. Jesus is the only one who has the answer.