

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Colossians 3:18-21**.
- B. This is a very special day for the Lake Land 'family' with tonight's special presentation on the Family Resource Center.
- C. In conjunction with this presentation tonight I would like to preach on the importance of the family.
- D. We trust that everyone has made plans to come back tonight. Unfortunately our attendance is about 75% of the morning attendance. Please come back and be informed on this very important step in the future of the congregation.
- E. The home was ordained of God for the well being and happiness of mankind. There always has been and always will be a need for godly homes.

I. WE NEED GODLY HOMES FROM THE NATIONAL STANDPOINT.

- A. Today, we are reaping the confusion that has come upon us due to the breakdown of godly homes.
- B. Let us examine a few facts and then ask 'why?'
 - 1. We have enough cotton in the U.S. to clothe the entire world, yet thousands are almost naked from lack of clothing... why?
 - 2. We have enough wheat and corn stored up in storage bins to feed the world and yet thousands of people in the world go to bed each night hungry and in need of basic necessities... why?
 - 3. We have enough money stored up in banks, just sitting there collecting interest, and yet thousands do not have the basic necessities of life in which to live a normal life... why?
 - 4. We can see rotteness, political corruption, graft, divorce, immorality, lawlessness, racketeering, juvenile delinquency, vice, crime and sin on every hand... why?
 - 5. 100 years ago the U.S. was called the most law abiding nation in the world and now we are one of the least law abiding nations... why?
- C. The answer lies in many areas as to all of these problems, but one of the main factors is that of the breakdown of the home, the family unit as God would have it.

II. WE NEED GODLY HOMES BECAUSE OF CRIME.

- A. We are told that crime has increased over 500% in the last few years. One report has stated that we had in one year 1,333,526 crimes which includes a murder every 45 minutes, a felony every 24 seconds, 100,000 were assaulted, 50,000 places were burglarized, 12,000 murdered, and there were 23,000 suicides.
- B. There are more murderers at large in the U.S. than there are preachers of the gospel. There are more unpunished criminals than policemen to arrest them. More money is spent on once program of Miami Vice than is spent in the entire year for the Miami police force.
- C. Mr. J. Edgar Hoover has said, "The home is the natural cornerstone of government, and that it was the earliest form of government. The home is the place to teach children of God and how to live. If this instruction and religious training is lacking at home, then the individual is confronted with the problem of learning these fundamental precepts by experience or not at all. Religion in the home is necessary if we are to continue our democratic way of life."
- D. At one time in this country we were spending about \$3 billion on education and almost three times that on crime control.
- E. According to Hoover the reason for the problems in society is that of the break down of the home as God would have it. The reverse is true also, if we can have godly homes then the nation will prosper (Prov. 14:34).

III. WE NEED GODLY HOME EVERYWHERE.

- A. Some might think that these kinds of statistics reflect only the level of life in the big, metropolitan cities of the U.S., but they are reflective of the entire country, in towns big and small.
- B. All one needs to do is look at the conduct of young people downtown, in the mall, on the playgrounds, at the schools and see that even in Mattoon and Charleston there is a need for godly homes.
- C. Too many times here locally I have observed the effects of child abuse, divorce, and sin in families.
- D. We have built fine structures in which to live; palaces no less; but have no idea of how to fill a house with love, compassion, and godliness as to make it a home.

IV. A DEFINITION OF A GODLY HOME.

- A. A real home is a place...
 - ...where a world of strife is shut out and a world of love is shut in.
 - ...where the great are small and the small are great.
 - ...where faults are hidden and forgiven and virtues are exalted.
 - ...where our stomach gets three meals a day and our heart gets 1,000.
 - ...where we can complain the most and still have the greatest blessings.
 - ...where we can find the Father's kingdom, the mother's world and the child's paradise.
 - ...where daddy serves his children from the word of God and supremely loves their mother.
 - ...where mother loves her children, serves her husband and realizes that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."
 - ...where the children are taught that sin is SIN and what the Bible says is right is right and that love never fails.
 - ...where God is exalted in an atmosphere of commitment, contentment and character.
- B. We as concerned Xians for a lost and dying world need to be ready to help every family and every home be a Xian family.

V. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS AND OUR GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

- A. What does the Bible say about the family... plenty!
- B. Look at the following scripture texts;
 - 1. Genesis 2:22-24.
 - 2. Colossians 2:17-21,23-24.
- C. Now with the Family Resource Center we can make an impact on individuals to be better husbands and wives, parents, and brothers and sisters.
- D. We can make an impact on their lives to improve the schools, social clubs, and other organizations to which they belong.
- E. We can make an impact on this city, state and country by getting people to do things God's way.
- F. If we have such an opportunity to do good and do it not, how can God be pleased with us?

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Many in this audience have had to face serious problems in their families and you can appreciate more so than others the great value there is in having a good family.
- B. To those of us who live in good, godly homes may we realize that everyone has it so lucky. We must realize there are many out there who need our help.
- C. The most important family to be a member of is God's family; the church. The family is such an important unit to God that He has chosen to call His people the family of God.
- D. Everyone who will come to Jesus, on His terms, may be adopted into the family of God.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.