

RULES FOR A HAPPY HOME

“Home” is defined as “a place or abode of affection, peace and rest; a congenial abiding place.” Someone has written:

Home - A world of strife shut out, a world of love shut in.

Home - A place where we grumble the most and are treated the best.

Home - A place where the small are great and the great are small.

Home - The father’s kingdom, the mother’s world and the children’s paradise.

Home - The place where our stomachs get three square meals a day and our hearts a thousand.

Home - The center of affections around which the heart’s best wishes twine.

Home - The only place on earth where the faults and failings of humanity are hidden under the sweet mantle of charity.

Home - A place where the father and mother humbly seek God and the child lisps his prayer.

Home - A place where at the close of the day the child climbs upon father’s lap, after a good story, says his prayer at mother’s knee, and receives a goodnight kiss and is tucked safely into bed.

Happy homes do not happen by accident, but they come about by following the Bible, the rule book, for happy homes and lives. Paul wrote, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (II Tim. 3:16-17.) I want to give some rules, based on Biblical principles, for a happy home.

START RIGHT. In order to start right one must prepare to start right. One cannot live an immoral life and expect to begin his marriage right. The preparation for a race starts before the start of the race. Runners must prepare for the start. Likewise, one must prepare for the start of marriage. One very important element in the preparation for marriage is a pure life. Paul commanded the young preacher, “Keep thyself pure.” (I Tim. 5:22.) Later he wrote to him, “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (II Tim. 2:22.) Take purity to the altar when you go.

Involved in starting right is to marry someone who has the scriptural right to marry. There are three candidates for a scriptural marriage: (1) Someone who has never married; (2) Someone who has lost a mate by death; (3) Someone who has put away his or her mate on the ground of fornication (Matt. 19:9). On this last point, be sure, be very, very sure that the person you are going to marry has a right to marry. Your soul as well as her soul is at stake.

Don’t get started off on the wrong foot by allowing alcoholic beverages to be served at your wedding reception (Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35; Gal. 5:19-21). Jesus turned water into wine, but it was merely fresh grape juice (John 2). He would not have made over 100 gallons of intoxicating wine for a wedding in the small town of Cana of Galilee. I resent the implications of those who would say otherwise!

Brides, make sure you, as well as your wedding party, dress modestly. The bride should exemplify purity and holiness; so, why should she wear that which would advertise that she is not? A wedding does not grant a Christian girl the right to dress immodestly (I Tim. 2:9-10).

MARRY FOR LIFE. God ordained that marriage is to be for life. The words, “till death do ye part” are not merely a part of the ceremonial tradition. They echo divine truth. Paul wrote, “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.” (Rom. 7:2-3.) Again, Paul said to the Corinthians, “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 7:39.)

In order for a marriage to last, both husband and wife must recognize that marriage is a commitment for life. If one is, and the other is not, then ten thousand angels cannot make the marriage last. Remember: What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. No one - which includes a family member, a friend, etc. — should come between you and your spouse.

PUT GOD FIRST. In the order of priorities, it is God first, mate second, children third and others fourth. Whenever the order

is changed, there will eventually be trouble. Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matt. 6:33.) On one occasion Jesus was asked, “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Matt. 22:36-39.)

We are to love God more than we love our parents, our mates, our children, our siblings, our friends and even ourselves. Jesus said, “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26-27.)

MAKE TIME FOR EACH OTHER. We live busy lives. In most cases now, both the husband and wife work. Due to working different hours, they become like ships passing in the night. Before long, couples begin to drift from each other. Sometimes they do not even sit down for meals together. I once listened to a couple who had been having marital problems. They seemed distant from each other. I asked them what their schedules were. One would be going to work as the other was coming from work. They had no time for each other or their children. They needed to change their schedules or one needed to quit his/her job. Their home was too important to jeopardize it over the Almighty Dollar!

Some of the worst offenders of this are preachers. In their efforts to save the world, they lose their own families. In their expending time and energy trying to save weak members of the church and their children, they end up losing their own. This is not to say that preachers and elders should not put forth every effort to help others. It simply means that there has to be some balance. It is a judgment call, I realize; but what does it profit if a man gains the whole world and loses his own family? I suggest that a man will have a greater influence on the world if he saves his own family.

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

ILL

Sunday: Kathleen Camp, Louise Dodson, Chris Edwards, Brooke and Taylor Nemechek, Millie Robertson (PM). Lynda Cole had heart valve replacement surgery on Thursday October 19 and is recovering in Room B-614 at St. Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, MO. Jamal Abyad is recovering from lung cancer surgery in Houston, TX. Please remember these in your prayers.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to Allen and Clara Scott in the passing of their son-in-law Ron Wood on Friday evening, October 20 at the Mayo Clinic in Florida. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time.

OUT OF TOWN

Jeremy Keifer was in Sapulpa, OK last weekend.

LADIES CLASS

The Ladies Bible Class has resumed its normal schedule of meeting each Wednesday at 10:00 AM. All ladies are encouraged to attend these classes.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 59; Sunday PM, 42; Wednesday PM, 43.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith."

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

Those To Serve

October 22, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Ken Greer
PRESIDE..... Myron Nebergall
ASSIST.....David Parish
ASSIST.....Allen Scott
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Charles Tullis
LORD'S SUPPER..... Myron Nebergall

WEDNESDAY 25th

SONG LEADER.....Jared Nelson
INVITATION Myron Nebergall

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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