

## Building a God-Centered Home: The Purpose of a Home

1950s TV shows like *Leave It to Beaver* or *Father Knows Best* depicted a model for the home that seems almost foreign in our culture today. Mom and dad would raise the children, and they would deal with their problems together as a family. Of course, that was just TV, but was there any truth to it?

Proverbs 24:3-4

<sup>3</sup>By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; <sup>4</sup>And by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

The true riches of a home are found in wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. By these, the members of a household are built up to fulfill their God-given purpose in life. What is their purpose?

Ecclesiastes 12:13 – The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Ephesians 2:10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Consider some of the specific functions of a God-centered home that equip us to fulfill our God-given purpose.

- A home is a place of learning.

Moses said to Israel, <sup>6</sup>“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). If this was good for Israel, shouldn’t it be good for us?

- A home is a place of worship.

Consider the example of Cornelius (Acts 10:1-2), who “feared God with all his household” and was “praying in his house” (Acts 10:30). All the members of his home had worshiped God together, and all obeyed together when they heard the gospel of Christ (Acts 10:44-48).

- A home is a place of love.

- Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25).
- Wives are to love their husbands (Titus 2:4).
- Children are to love and honor their parents (Ephesians 6:2) even as parents are to love their children.
- Above all, all are to love God (Matthew 22:37).

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What has happened to our homes?

- Do we teach and learn at home, or do we pass our responsibilities to the churches and schools?
- Do we worship at home, or do we only worship “at church” on Sunday? Do we worship at all?
- Do our homes abound in love, or are they merely places to eat, sleep, watch television, or browse the internet?

When homes fail to serve their God-given purpose and function, people fail as well. Therefore, do all you can to make your home what God would have it to be.

“Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).