**Memories from Home**

**Introduction**

1. Some of the greatest memories in life come from our childhood in the home.
2. However, for some, memories from home are not good ones – broken home, divorces, abuse (verbal, emotional, physical), poverty, hunger, lacking love, etc.
3. The home is the oldest institution established by God – in the beginning with Adam and Eve.
   1. It is the fabric of society, and the church.
   2. So goes the home, so goes the church.
   3. It is the foundation of a child’s development in all things that will affect them for the rest of their life.
4. Memories from home are of great importance. Whether we ourselves have positive memories from home or not, we should have as our goal to leave our children with memories that are better than our own when they leave home.
5. Above all else, as Christians, the memories we should seek to leave with our children should concern that of a godly home.
   1. This takes effort, and careful attention.
   2. Just because two are Christians does not mean they have or had a godly home.
   3. Not all Christians have a godly home.
6. A Home with a God-Fearing Atmosphere
7. The Fear of the Lord
   1. Fear of God is the purpose of man – **Ecclesiastes 12:13**
      1. Fear – *yârê’*; to fear; morally, to revere; cause to frighten (Strong).
   2. Awe of God – **Psalm 47:2; 66:3, 5; 111:9** (“awesome” – yârê’)
   3. Reverence for God (deep respect) – **Psalm 89:7** (“reverence” – yârê’)
      1. Because He is awesome, we deeply respect Him.
      2. Don’t approach Him lightly or speak of Him in vain – serious in all matters concerning God.
   4. Fear of Disobeying God – **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** (knowing the judgement); **Matthew 10:28** (knowing His power to destroy in hell)
   5. Desire to always do His will – **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** (NOTE: “for your good”); **2 Corinthians 5:9** (to be well-pleasing to Him)
8. It Starts at the Top
   1. The atmosphere of fearing the Lord will start with the leader of the home – the father. Then the mother, on down to the children.
      1. If the father does not fear the Lord, it is not likely that the rest will.
      2. If the father does not fear his Heavenly Father, the children will not likely fear their earthly father.
      3. HOWEVER, THE FATHER MUST BE CAREFUL TO STRESS THE NEED FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE FAMILY TO CULTIVATE A PERSONAL FEAR OF THE LORD.
   2. Shown by example – **1 Peter 5:2-3** (elders lead by example); **1 Timothy 3:4-5** (connection with domestic qualification – rule house)
      1. It will be impossible to instill the fear of the Lord in the family if it is not first within you.
   3. Diligently taught – **Deuteronomy 6:20-25**
      1. **(v. 20)** – why do we obey God?
      2. **(vv. 21-23)** – the great, AWESOME things God has done for us.
      3. **(vv. 24-25)** – fear the Lord, keep His commandments, FOR OUR GOOD, for righteousness.
9. A God-Fearing Home
   1. Will prioritize pleasing God – **Matthew 6:33**
   2. Will study together – **2 Timothy 2:15**
   3. Will pray together – **1 Thessalonians 5:17**
   4. Will hold each other accountable – **Hebrews 3:12-14**
   5. Will be faithful in assembling with the saints for worship – **Hebrews 10:24-25; Psalm 122:1**
10. A Home with a Solid Marriage
11. Marriage is the Foundation
    1. A home begins in marriage, not simply when a child is born.
       1. **Genesis 2:24** – they leave current home and create one together.
    2. ***“one flesh”*** – a joining of two lives as one – values, emotions, thoughts, goals, desires, etc.
       1. Marriage is a fleshly relationship – **Matthew 22:30** – in the totality of “flesh” – i.e. not just bodies, but life on earth period.
       2. The concept of marriage from the beginning came from God’s emphasis that man needed a life-helper – **Genesis 2:18**
          1. This is inclusive of all life entails, ESPECIALLY SERVING GOD.
          2. This is why chaos ensued when righteous men married unrighteous women – **Genesis 6:1-2, 5** – values and virtues were compromised because the righteous joined as “one flesh” with those who were unrighteous.
          3. For a home to be solid, a marriage must be solid, ESTABLISHED ON THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD. **(cf. Matthew 7:24-27** – build life on rock of Jesus’ words)
    3. Children are a product of marriage – **Genesis 1:28** – in order for them to be a part of a godly home, the marriage they come from must be firmly established.
       1. A big part of the ***“one flesh”*** is the joint effort of likeminded people to raise their children a certain way. (**Proverbs 22:6** – in the way they should go)
       2. If that way is not agreed upon it will spell disaster.
12. The Marriage Comes First
    1. Because a solid marriage is the foundation of a healthy home that marriage must be nurtured.
       1. This means nothing comes between the husband and wife.
       2. ***“one flesh”*** – was so before the children came and will be after the children leave – ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN AREN’T TO COME BETWEEN.
    2. Jesus showed the priority of the marriage when He noted its intended duration – **Matthew 19:3-6** – one man, one woman, for life.
       1. **(vv. 7-9)** – the only exception is sexual immorality.
       2. **(v. 10)** – disciples conclusion – if it is that permanent, and sin is the outcome of a severed marriage, it’s better to stay single.
       3. **(v. 11)** – Jesus’ response – that is true if you can’t accept the saying.
    3. Based on the Law of Christ concerning marriage it should be prioritized for preservation in the best ways possible.
       1. Compromise, forgiveness, longsuffering, sympathy, understanding, servitude, sacrifice, attention, introspection, investigation, etc.
       2. Like with all things, Christ is the key:
          1. He must come first for both – **Luke 14:26**
          2. Both must do all as spouses out of love for Christ – **Colossians 3:23-24**
    4. An end in divorce is destructive – **Malachi 2:16** – such a destructive and treacherous (deceit; betrayal of trust) matter should be avoided at all costs, and such takes work at all times.
13. A Home with Accepted Roles
14. Understand God’s Ways are Best
    1. A home cannot thrive as God wants it to without first all its members acknowledging the superiority of God’s ways – **Isaiah 55:8-9**
    2. The world has departed from God’s intended structure of the home.
    3. Therefore, A GODLY HOME WILL BE ABNORMAL IN TODAY’S SOCIETY. This must not deter us from structuring the home according to scripture.
    4. **Romans 12:2** – we must not be conformed to societies’ thoughts but allow our thoughts about home to be molded by God’s will.
15. Husband
    1. Head of the home – **Ephesians 5:23, 25-28**
       1. Head – leader. (The authority he possesses is not for his advantage, but for the family’s well-being.)
       2. Love – not the word for affection/romance.
          1. Better explained by the action of comparison.
          2. **(vv. 25-28)** – Christ’s love was in caring for the spiritual well-being of the church, leading to sacrifice.
          3. The husband’s love is one which acts for the well-being of the wife at all times – protector, provider, leader, etc.
    2. Spiritual leader – **Ephesians 6:4** – seen with wife before, but the ultimate spiritual nurturer in the family.
    3. Provider – **1 Timothy 5:8** – must provide for his own.
       1. This would include more than simply possessing a job to feed the family.
       2. Financial honesty, and shrewdness – must not be reckless, but A GOOD STEWARD OF YOUR FINANCES.
16. Wife
    1. Subject to the husband – **Ephesians 5:22-24**
       1. This subjection is a willful and trustful one.
       2. The success of the Husband/father’s leadership is largely dependent on the wife’s willingness to trust him and follow his lead.
       3. **Ephesians 5:33** – is largely about respect. ***(“reverence” – KJV*** – a deep respect, especially born out of acknowledgment of the grave appointment God has bestowed upon the husband)
       4. ***“obedient to their own husbands” (Titus 2:5)***
    2. Homemaker – **Titus 2:4-5**
       1. Homemaker – *oikouros*; “working at home” (oikos, and a root of ergon, “work”), is used in Titus 2:5, “workers at home,”… Some mss. have oikouros, “watching” or “keeping the home” (oikos, and ouros, “a keeper”), kjv, “keepers at home.” (VINE)
       2. Keep – denoting a guarding of and watching after.
       3. The glory of the woman is in the home as ordained by God.
       4. “This does not mean, of course, that they are never to go abroad, but they are not to neglect their domestic affairs; they are not to be better known abroad than at home.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
       5. The importance of the woman in the home cannot be overstated – the home cannot be healthy without her presence, and diligence in keeping it.
       6. This would include her spiritual upbringing of the children.
17. Children
    1. Subject to parents – **Ephesians 6:1** – obedience always.
    2. Honor parents – **Ephesians 6:2-3** – honor, show them respect, and acknowledge their value.
       1. **cf. Proverbs 1:8-9** – especially in regard to their direction of wisdom.
       2. Show this ultimately through willful obedience.
18. A Home with Love and Respect
19. Love for God is Key
    1. Jesus showed that loving God with every fiber of our being is the glue which holds together all other commandments, including loving each other – **Matthew 22:36-40**
       1. If we’re loving God, we will love those who are from God.
       2. The way we love others is by observing what God has commanded.
    2. The way relationships thrive is through individual resolve to do God’s will out of love for Him – **Colossians 3:17-25**
       1. **(v. 17)** – the behavior in relationships is predicated upon submission to Jesus.
       2. ***“as is fitting in the Lord”*** – truly, our every action and word **(v. 17)** should be preceded by the thought, “is this fitting in the Lord?”
    3. Our love for God is motivated by His love for us – **1 John 4:7-11**
       1. His love which motivates our love is demonstrated in the sacrifice of Christ.
       2. **(v. 11)** – the knowledge that this love in Christ’s sacrifice was not only extended to us, but to the other allows us to see their value and promotes love toward them.
       3. Such an understanding will keep us from saying and doing things which damage our family member – **cf. 1 Corinthians 8:11** (Christ died for them, and should you be injuring them?)
       4. Golden rule – **Matthew 7:12**
20. Self-Denial
    1. **Mark 8:34** – we must be able and willing to deny ourselves in order to be a good family member.
    2. This includes estimating the needs and interests of the other above our own – **Philippians 2:3-4**
       1. Consider Jesus with His own mother – **John 19:25-27** – although He was dying on the cross, He had a concern for providing for His mother’s needs.
21. Servitude
    1. Similar to the body of Christ, members of the home each need to have a servant’s attitude.
    2. God has composed the family unit, in all its parts, to operate similarly to a body – in the sense that each part has a role, and that role is ultimately for the benefit of the other – **Romans 12:4-6**
22. A Home with Good Communication
23. Good communication is key to any relationship.
    1. Marriage – most obvious.
    2. Parent to child – for the spiritual growth of the child, for the child’s obedience, etc.
    3. Child to parent – communication of needs, especially spiritually, but also effective showing of respect that is due.
24. Everyone Must be Inclined to Listen
    1. Regardless of how well family members know each other they still cannot read minds. We must not assume but listen.
    2. **James 1:19-20** – we must have a first thought to listen and set a guard up against wrath regardless of what is said.
       1. This swiftness to hear allows us time to think before we speak.
       2. Our words should not be rash, but thoughtful.
    3. **Luke 8:18** – Jesus’ exhorted to listen effectively lest one hears what they want to hear, or doesn’t hear what they don’t want to hear, instead of hearing the truth.
       1. In the family, we should always want to know what is ACTUALLY trying to be communicated.
25. Everyone Must be Transparent, and Vocal
    1. Part of listening may actually come in the form of vocalization.
    2. Consider young Jesus – **Luke 2:46-47** – He listened and asked.
       1. It may be that what is communicated is not sufficient information for understanding.
       2. NOBODY SHOULD SHY AWAY FROM ASKING QUESTIONS FOR CLARITY AND FURTHER INFORMATION.
    3. There needs to be an effort to dwell with understanding – **1 Peter 3:7** – husband to the wife, but also wife to the husband, and parents with children.
       1. Context: Husband and wife are very different, which is where the exhortation comes from.
       2. This requires transparency – we shouldn’t be wanting to hide anything from each other, and we shouldn’t be hesitant to share.
       3. Also, if one struggles to understand, questions should be asked to further that understanding.
       4. Ultimately, THERE MUST BE A WILLINGNESS TO UNDERSTAND.
    4. Especially, the transparent communication of spiritual struggles and needs – **James 5:16**
26. Speech Must be Seasoned with Salt
    1. Our words must be with positive intent – **Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29**
    2. Our words must be chosen carefully – **Matthew 12:36-37** – no idle words.
27. A Home with Discipline and Training
28. The Father’s Calling
    1. The father is placed at the helm of the spiritual upbringing of children (no doubt mothers play a key role) – **Ephesians 6:4**
       1. Not provoke – points of communication should be thoughtfully applied here.
       2. Training and admonition:
          1. Training – *paideia* – the act of providing guidance for responsible living, upbringing, training, instruction. (BDAG)
             1. Translated “chastening” – **Hebrews 12:5** – denotes more than mere education, but correction through physical chastisement – **v. 6** – paired with “scourges.”
             2. **Hebrews 12:11** – painful, but necessary.
             3. Training implies education with the positive reinforcement of chastening when negative behavior occurs contrary to the education.
             4. I.E. SPANKING LETS THE CHILD KNOW NOT TO DO THAT.
          2. Admonition – *nouthesia* – lit., “a putting in mind” (nous, “mind,” tithemi, “to put”). (VINE)
             1. “Nouthesia is “the training by word,” whether of encouragement, or, if necessary, by reproof or remonstrance. In contrast to this, the synonymous word paideia stresses training by act, though both words are used in each respect.” (VINE)
             2. Informing about what is correct or incorrect, but with the following training by act if needed.
          3. ***“discipline and instruction of the Lord” (NASB***)
       3. You cannot always reason with a child. They are not developed enough to always understand the “why” of the matter. However, they will be able to make the connection through physical discipline that they ought not do something. As they mature in age that understanding will be deeper as it is accompanied by the ability to understand the reasoning behind the restriction.
29. Biblical Discipline
    1. ***“OF THE LORD”*** – i.e. the discipline parents use on their children is not to come from opinion, culture, or some book written by man.
    2. **Proverbs 13:24** – physical discipline out of love.
    3. **Proverbs 19:18** – physical discipline while there is time, and for their future.
    4. **Proverbs 22:15** – physical discipline to purge foolishness.
    5. **Proverbs 23:13-14** – physical discipline with the understanding that it will not ruin the child but save the child.
    6. **Proverbs 29:15** – physical discipline lest the child be abandoned (left to himself) leading to shame.
30. Vigilance
    1. To find opportunities to teach – **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
    2. To notice decline – **Deuteronomy 6:12** (checking Bible lessons, changes in behavior, changes in demeanor, etc.)
    3. To notice negative influences – **1 Corinthians 15:33** (entertainment, habits, friends, etc.)

**Conclusion**

1. It should be the goal of every parent to leave their children with positive memories from home.
2. Those memories will be of a godly home, and such will only be cultivated by personal diligence and care.