The Greatest Need In Our City

Intro: As a basis for this lesson turn to Psa. 127:1-5 “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. 2It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. 3Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.” Many sermons are preached on the church with this passage in mind. Although it can be applied to the church, the context shows it is referring to the home.

1 Many years ago Henry W. Grady was sent to Washington to write some articles on the capitol of the United States. He went to Washington, viewed the capitol from every standpoint, and by chance, as he was returning home, he was asked to spend the night at a farm-house along the way. That night he was asked to join the family worship session. When he arrived home, he wrote his articles on the capitol, but stated that he made an amazing discovery, that the capitol was not in Washington, but in Christian homes of Americans. The Christian home is the greatest need in America, and in this community, in this state, and in this world.

2 Just as the church must be built according to the divine pattern to be the Lord’s church, even so must the home be built according to the Lord’s plan to be a Christian home.

I. The Home Is The Oldest Institution In The World With God As Its Author.
   A. Sin wrecked the first home; sin wrecks home today.
   B. We must get back to the home as ordained of God.

II. A Christian Home Is Built According To God’s Law Of Marriage.
   A. Scriptures dealing with marriage, divorce, and remarriage.
      1. Mark 10:2-12 “And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. 2And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? 3And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. 4And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. 5But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. 6For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. 7What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 8And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. 9And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”
      2. Luke 16:18 “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.”
      3. Mat. 19:1-9 “And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan; 2And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there. 3The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? 4And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 7They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”
4. Mat. 5:31-32 “It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

5. 1 Cor. 7

B. Jesus’ teachings:

1. Jesus goes back to the beginning and shows that God’s law for marriage has never changed.

2. The Pharisees said Moses commanded divorce, but Jesus said he suffered (allowed, permitted) it because of the hardness of their hearts; Mat. 19:7-8 “They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.”

3. Notice the words leave and cleave.
   a. Leave is from Greek καταλειπω (kataleipo) means literally “to leave down.” Thus, to leave behind or forsake.
   b. Cleave is from Greek κολλαω κολλαο meaning to join fast together, to glue, to cement.

4. Christ says there is one and only one reason given for putting away ones companion and marrying another, “Except it be for fornication.” We had better not pervert what the Lord has said.

C. Because of the appalling rate of divorce today, the foundation of the home is being destroyed.

III. A CHRISTIAN HOME IS RULED BY A CHRISTIAN FATHER.

A. To be a Christian, the father must obey the gospel. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

B. The father is to take the lead.

1. Abraham: Gen. 18:19 “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”

2. Joshua: Jos. 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

3. Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

4. Every father should be able to say to his children, “Follow me as I follow Christ.”

C. God pity the man who shirks this responsibility.

1. Like Eli, many men are good men but poor fathers; 1 Sam. 3:13 “For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.”

2. Many fathers are like King David, to busy with other things to be a good father. What if, like David, we lose our sons. 2 Sam. 18:33 “And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!”
D. The husband is to be the head of the family.

1. Eph. 5:22-23 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

2. 1 Pet. 3:1, 5-7 “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;...5For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. 7Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”


A. She must become a Christian by obedience to the gospel; Rom. 6:17-18. “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

B. To stand, the home must be united.

1. Mark 3:25 “And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”

2. If the husband is not a Christian, the wife should try to convert him. 1 Pet. 3:1-6 “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 5While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”

3. For prayers not to be hindered, the home must be united. 1 Pet. 3:7 “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

4. Picture a divided home where the mother tells the child one thing and the father tells him something else. The child pays a big price.

C. The Christian wife is to reverence her husband.

1. Eph. 5:33 “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

2. She is to subject, submit to her husband.

3. Eph. 5:22-24 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”

4. Obeying the husband is easy if the husband is a Christian.

a. He will love, honor and protect his wife.

b. Eph. 5:25, 28-29 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;...29So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 30For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:”
V. A CHRISTIAN HOME IS A HOME WHERE EACH CHILD IS BEING TRAINED AND RESTRAINED.

A. Children are to obey their parents.
   1. Eph. 6:1-4 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
   2. They must be trained.
      a. Pro. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
      b. Deu. 6:5-9 “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”
      c. 2 Tim. 3:15 “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
   3. They must be restrained.
      a. 1 Sam. 3:13 “For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.”
      b. Pro. 13:24 “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”
      c. Pro. 23:13-14 “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. 14Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”
      d. Pro. 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”
   4. This training must be tempered with love.

B. Parents should diligently teach, train them.
   1. How much time do you devote to this important work?
   2. Do you have regular family devotions?
   3. A woman on a TV program had taught a parakeet 300 English words - said she spent three hours with the bird each day!

C. An elder, who had 4 sons who were preachers and 2 daughters who were outstanding Christians and Bible School teachers, was asked to give the rules by which he had brought them up. His reply.
   1. We set the right example before them. We never sent but we carried them to church every time the door was open.
   2. We had regular family devotions.
   3. We sent them to Christian schools. I had much rather sent them 1000 miles away from home to a school where they would sit at the feet of Christian teachers than for them to stay at home and sit at the feet of teachers who do not believe in God, for them to go to a school where sin and vice is winked at, and where faith in God would be destroyed.

Conclusion: Truly, our greatest need is Christian homes. Is your home Christian? Resolve to make it such by becoming a Christian. Remember, a Christian home is where every member that is responsible before God is a Christian.
1 Fathers, Mothers, think what it will mean to your happiness here and your eternal happiness to make your home a Christian home.

2 A father in Texas, was picking cotton with 2 little boys at his side. One day when he saw a mad dog coming toward them, he called to the boys and told them to run to the cotton bin while he fought the dog with his small pocket knife. He was badly bitten and was carried to the hospital. When he regained consciousness, he looked for a moment into the face of his wife and said, “Mother, don’t worry about me,” and then with a smile on his face said, “Thank God, I saved our boys.” and went into the night. Are you saving yours?