 Intro: My subject primarily deals with making a happy or joyous home. We want to look at some Scriptures which apply to this important subject.

I. THE HOME TODAY IS IN TROUBLE.
   A. Divorce is commonplace in our society.
      1. There are half as many divorces as there are marriages today, and in some areas there are more divorces than marriages.
      2. This in spite of Christ’s teaching in Mat. 19:9 “And 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.”
   B. According to some; 80% of marriages that stay together, the couples are not happy.
      1. Many staying together “because of the children.”
      2. Others do not have the joy that God intended us to have in the marriage relationship.
      3. Let us first consider some preliminaries.

II. FAITHFULNESS TO GOD’S LAWS BRINGS JOY.
   A. Since God is the Creator of man, He knows what brings true joy to man.
   B. Deu. 6:24 “And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.”
   C. Phi. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”

III. REMAINING WITHIN THE ROLES GOD ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE HOME BRINGS JOY.
   A. Husband/Father
      1. His is one of leadership.
      2. 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.”
      3. 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.”
   B. Wife/Mother
      1. Hers is one of submission.
      2. Gen. 3:16 “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”
      3. Eph. 5:22-24 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For 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. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”
   C. Children
      1. Honoring and obeying their parents and receiving training.
      2. Eph. 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”
IV. NEED FOR LOVE IN THE HOME; 1 COR. 13
A. Importance of Love (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

B. Characteristics of Love (1 Cor. 13:4-8a)

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself; is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth:

1. Patience (applied in four areas)
   a. With others.
   b. With circumstances.
   c. With self.
   d. With God.

2. Kind.
   a. This is being merciful, gentile, tender.
   b. It is not sour, harsh, ill-natured.

3. Not envious.
   a. Envy is discontent with the good fortune of another.
   b. Love delights itself in the happiness and prosperity of others.

4. Does not vaunt itself.
   a. Vaunting oneself is the thrusting self forward, parade one's superiority to others.
   b. Like a pole vaulter using a pole to vault himself up.

5. Is not puffed up.
   a. Basic idea is an inflated opinion of oneself.
   b. Paul uses it to indicate one who is disinterested in others; which results from self-interest and pride.

   a. They are not out of character.
   b. It is someone who acts proper or becoming in the circumstances he is placed and prompts to proper performance in all duties of life.

7. Is not selfish.
   a. Does not seek one's own desires.
   b. Looks to the welfare of others, their good and happiness.

8. Not easily provoked.
   a. This is someone who is not easily excited to anger.
   b. He has the ability to govern his thoughts and feelings (including his temper).

9. Thinketh no evil.
   a. It does not put the worst construction on the acts of others, or attribute evil motives to others.
   b. It does not make a record of evil others do, but allows it to pass unnoticed.
   c. This is someone who is optimistic.

10. Does not rejoice in unrighteousness.
    a. It does not find joy in evil doing committed by others.
    b. It cannot sympathize with what is evil.
Bible Scriptures Which Make For A Happy Home

   a. This is the finding joy in and sympathizing in right.
   b. 2 John 4 “I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.”

12. Bears all things.
   a. Covers over the wrongs of others; does not spread others wrongs.
   b. 1 Pet. 4:8 “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”
   c. Jam. 5:19-20 “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

   a. Has faith or trust in others.
   b. It believe and looks for all the good of others.
   c. It is not suspicious.

14. Hopes all things.
   a. Hope is an expectant desire.
   b. Love expects the best of and for others; it is optimistic.

15. Endures all things.
   a. Love suffers, endures or bears all the evils that come upon it.
   b. It continues no matter what may come.

   a. Many things are temporary and passing.
   b. Love will remain.

C. Permanence of Love (1 Cor. 13:8b-13 “but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I unders tood as a child, I thought as a ch ild: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”)

V. NEED FOR THE GOLDEN RULE.

A. Mat. 7:12 “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

B. Different types of rules.
1. “Do whatever you are strong enough to do” (the iron rule) or “might makes right.
   a. Silver Rule.
   b. This would eliminate any help or assistance given to the downtrodden.

2. “We should not do to others what we do not want them to do to us.”
   a. Silver Rule.
   b. This would eliminate any help or assistance given to the downtrodden.

3. “What you would not have done to yourself, do not to others.”
   a. This simply withholds injury from others lest they return the injury.
   b. It is a law of selfishness.

4. “Whatever you would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them, so that they will be kindly disposed to do unto you what you wanted in the first place!” The ulterior motive golden rule.
C. **Some characteristics:**
1. It is reasonable: Others have the same rights as we have.
2. It is equitable: There is no respect of persons with God and should not with us.
3. It is positive: It is the **doing** of good.
4. It is universal: It applies to our dealings with all men.
5. It is evangelical: The greatest we would have others do to us is to save us from sin; thus, we should others.

VI. **SOME ADDITIONAL PASSAGES.**

A. **Mat. 5:38-42** “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. 41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. 42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.”

1. Submitting one to another.
   a. Eph. 5:21 “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”
   b. Phi. 2:3 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”
   c. 1 Pet. 5:5 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

2. Not retaliating against supposed wrongs or real wrongs.
   a. Rom. 12:21 “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
   b. 1 Pet. 3:9 “Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.”

3. Need For Going The Second Mile.
   a. **Mat. 7:1-5** “Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”

1. Taking care of self (get the beam out of thine own eye.)
   a. This deals with personal responsibility.
   b. First we must correct our own lives.
   c. Then, we can encourage others to correct their lives.

2. Do not have a harsh, bitter, faultfinding spirit that looks on the ill side of persons and actions.
   a. Refusing to nag.
   b. Not speaking harshly and condemningly.

Conclusion: As we apply the principles found within God’s Word to our homes, we will have joyous homes. When we fail to apply those God-given principles, our homes will not be a place of joy and happiness and we will lose the great benefits of the home.