

... that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice ... **Genesis 18:19**

A Costly Failure

Dan Henderson

Store In My Heart

John 8:23-24

And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

Jesus told these Jews they would die in their sins because they are of the world and would not believe He was from God.

Truly we also will die sinners if we do not believe Jesus is the very Son of God. Our worldly attitudes can keep us from listening to God's Word. To believe in Christ we need to set aside our lowly thoughts based on human experience and set our minds on what God has delivered through His inspired writers to guide us.

We need to read and study all of His Word if we want to die saved from our sins. Be diligent in your study of God's Word!

It seems that through the years one area of God's teaching has been ignored by many in the church. I don't mean that it has not been taught. I know many of God's messengers have spent countless hours teaching both publicly and privately on the importance of this topic. Teaching on this subject is also included in sermons, Bible classes and home studies that are mainly focused on other topics. Teaching on this topic is of utmost importance because failures in this area will have devastating consequences in all other areas of our life, both as Christians and in society. In fact, I am convinced that failure to give heed to God's teaching in this one area is a root cause of all the trouble we have in the church today, as well as the downfall of our society as a whole. This topic is so important that almost every enemy of God has been working to destroy its influence for decades. In fact, it has been under attack almost since the beginning of time. Have I got your attention? Do you know what area I have in mind? Is it the working of God's grace in our salvation? Is it the importance of obedience on the part of an individual? Could it be immersion for forgiveness of sin? Heaven? Hell? Premillennialism?

While all of the above are serious topics and none are to be dismissed or belittled, they are not the area of concern in this writing. They can all be hindered, though, by a lack of attention to the teaching God has given us from the beginning regarding the importance of the home as God designed it. God's home design is a cornerstone in the architecture of His plan for man.

Yes, that is right. I said failure to apply the teaching from God regarding the importance and place of the home in His plan has caused a great number of problems for the church and society. How can the home have such a universal influence on God's plan? Some will say, I thought the church was central to God's plan. Others will cry, But Jesus is most important to our salvation. My question for both is, Where does God intend for you to first hear about Jesus and the church? At home. That was God's plan for Abraham and Israel, **Genesis 18:19**, **Deuteronomy 6:7**. It is God's desire for us today, **Ephesians 6:4**.

We often quote **2Timothy 3:16-17**. Do we remember what Paul said that prompted the statement? (**2Timothy 3:14-15**) From his childhood Timothy had been taught God's Word. Timothy's faith was rooted in the teaching he received at home **2Timothy 1:5**. That is why he was prepared to go with Paul at such a young age. His mother had been teaching him according to God's Word since he was a little child! I might include here a reminder that scripture indicates that Timothy's father was probably not interested in such teaching, so his mother was responsible for Timothy's instruction. Imagine the strength and abilities that would be present in the local assembly if EVERY parent were to do the same with



EACH child entrusted to them by God. Imagine the elders, deacons, Bible class teachers, and preachers that would be available for edification and encouragement if every family followed God's home design.

As I stated in the beginning, the problem lies not in a lack of teaching but in a lack of application. We, as a whole, have allowed the world to influence our homes to the extent that often God is not recognized there. We bought the idea that God is at church so we do not need him at home. The world tells us that we need a community (anyone remember "it takes a village"?) to raise our children to be useful and productive members of society. God tells us that the responsibility rests upon the home. The world tells us that both parents must work so that we can have the things that our neighbors have in order to be happy. God tells us that raising our children and serving Him are the most important things we can do in life.

Local assemblies are dwindling in many areas because children are raised with an attitude of focus on the world and its goods. This leads them to leave small towns in search of better opportunities. What if, instead of urging our children to achieve greater success in worldly endeavors, we taught our children so that they could be even better at serving God than their parents? Often worldly success is so important to us that we instill in our children an innate desire to better our lot in life. We ought to be pushing them away from the world and closer to God.

Where does one first learn about authority or consequences of disobedience? In a God designed home. **Ephesians 6:1-3, Proverbs 22:15, 23:13, 29:15.**

If these precepts are not followed in the home a child will grow up physically without an understanding of authority or consequence of ignoring law. This will almost always lead to a disregard for law and order as it applies to them. Take some time and look around at the society created by a world without the home God intended. Children roam the streets and stores with little regard for any kind of authority. Young women, and men, are so concerned about the image they present to their peers that they will ignore any negative consequences until it is too late. A large number of society has decided that it is the responsibility of others to see to their needs, and wants. Most everyone is more interested in satisfying their own wants and desires than in working together for some greater cause. If you find someone who is responsible for their own actions and seems to want to help others and do what is right, I am confident you will also find that they were raised in a home that, at least to a great degree, understood and followed God's teaching on the home.

It is past time for sounding the alarm. We have allowed the snooze button to be pressed too often. FATHERS, it is time for you to become what God intended. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN. MOTHERS, raise your children as God intended. If you must work outside the home, make sure it never interferes with the work God has given you in raising your child.

If there is any one area where failure of application has caused serious difficulty and failure throughout the church and society, it is in the area of the God designed home. When is the last time you sat down and read to your child from God's Word? Teddy bears, Disney princesses and Legos might be fun, but Abraham, Noah, Daniel, Esther and Ruth, along with Jesus, Paul, Stephen, and Dorcas will help lead them to Heaven.

Make your home a God designed home, TODAY!

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Paula Laubach has Single Level ACDF surgery scheduled for March.

Gloria Hurst has completed her radiation treatments.

Stanley Hurst's back is doing better.

Amy Simpson is still having some back trouble from time to time.

Bill Venable is still under some restriction from his surgery.

Sunday Evening - **Esther 9. Wednesday - 2Peter 3.**

Our meeting with Reuben Prevost is scheduled for April 21-25.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

