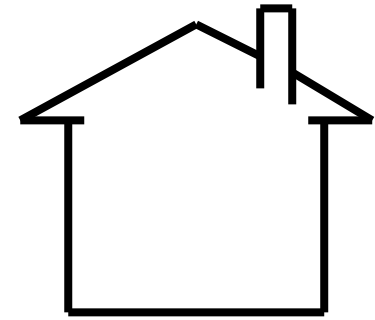


THE CHRISTIAN HOME



2nd Session

Agenda:

- Introduction
- Quick Review
- God's role in the Family
 - Christian homes fit into the overall purpose of God
 - Christ's right over our home
 - Christ's priority in the home
 - Commitment to Christ in the home
 - The power to have and sustain a Christian home
 - The principle for faithful family leaders
 - Practically – how should the end product (the Christian home) appear?



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

□ Introduction:

Before discussion can move into the details of what the Bible declares concerning a Christian home, it must first be established that God has a right to determine the definition, and character of a Christian home. The old saying “a man’s home is his castle” does not really apply biblically. Any true Christian should think seriously about their philosophy of the home from the standpoint of their autonomy to make it anything they choose. Everyone’s home is a sacred trust, and a unique sphere of opportunity and responsibility. This session focuses on God’s role in determining the character, and shaping of the Christian home, and the parent’s accountability to God for their stewardship.



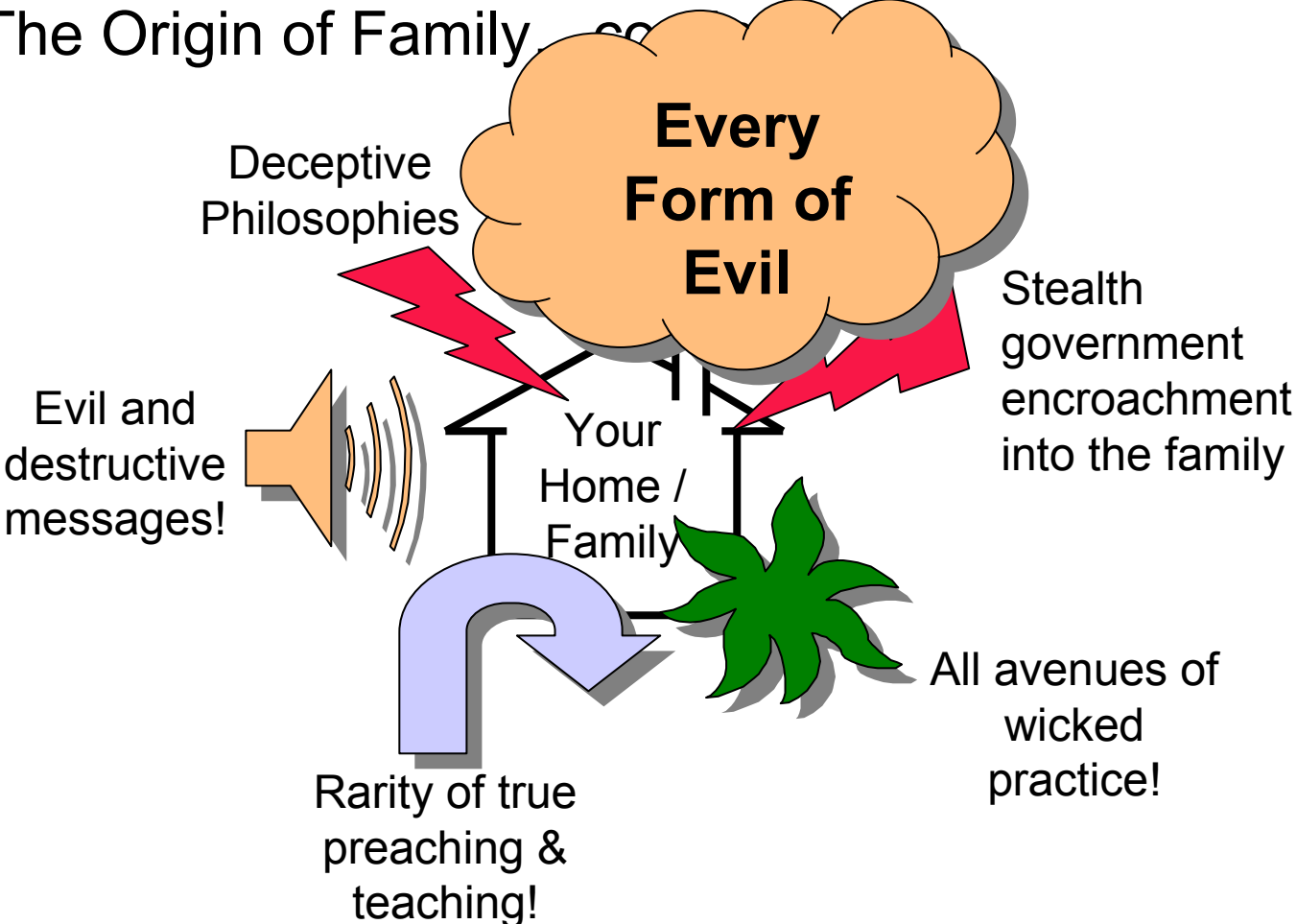
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□ Quick Review:

- The home is under assault. Even a casual look statistically (last session we looked at statistics) show just how horrific the evidence of problems.
- God Himself wisely formed the family as one of the three institutions of man (family, government, church).
- The family was designed by God (and that design is clearly defined in His Word) to accomplish His glory on the earth.
- The family was decreed and formed by God before the fall but to counteract the affects of the fall.
- Man's condition in sin must be constantly kept in mind as we study the home!

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

□ The Origin of Family

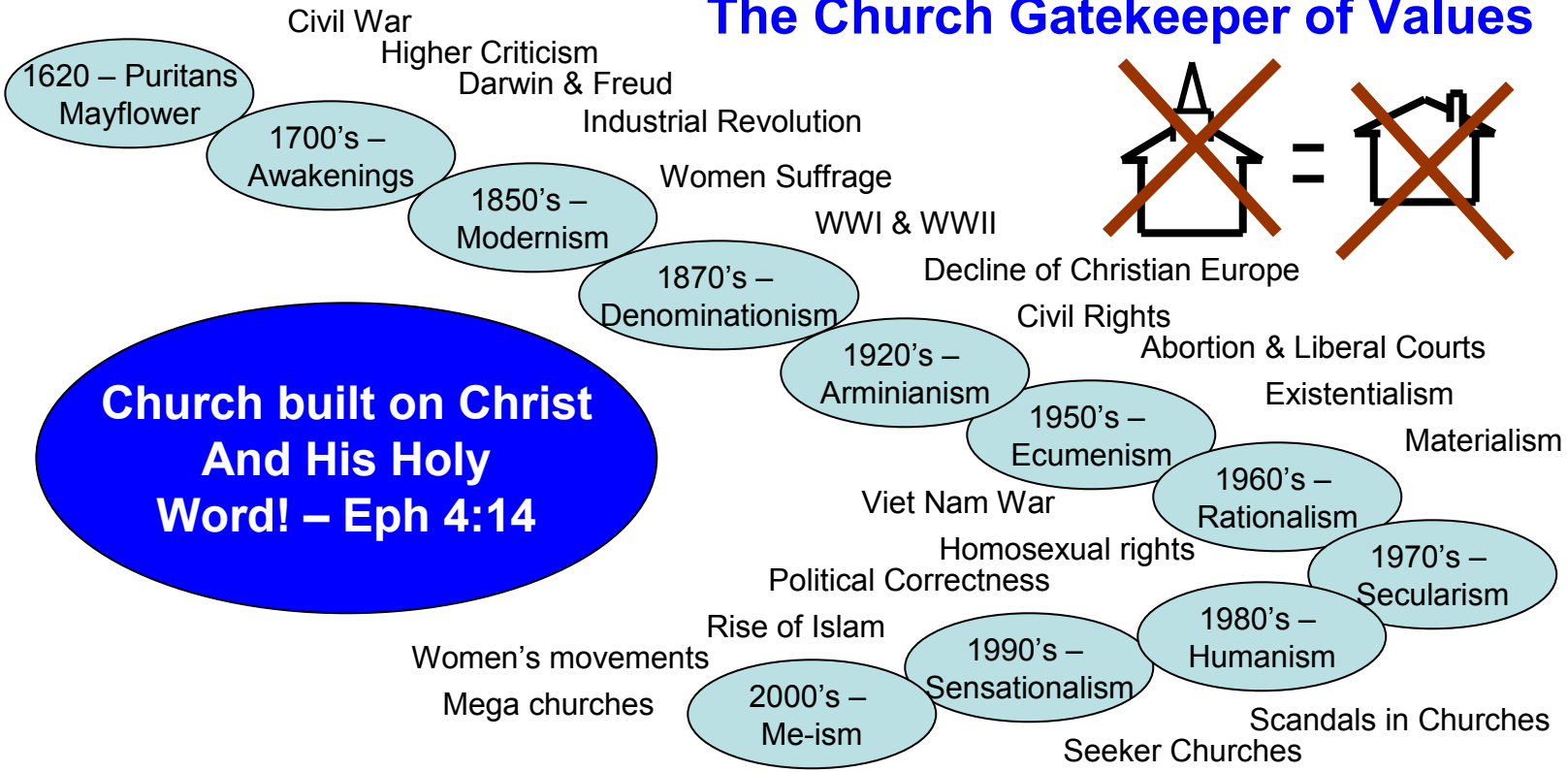


THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Quick Review...continued:

The history of the family home in America is a history attached in direct proportion to the philosophical movement of the church.

The Church Gatekeeper of Values





THE CHRISTIAN HOME

□ Quick Review:

- The family has three primary purposes:
 - **The propagation of the human race** (Gen 1:28; 9:1). The propagation of the human races shows the omniscience of God in His pre-plan for the family. Without continued propagation the human race would become extinct. Just as God foreordained the elect before the foundation of the world (1 Pet 1:20; Eph 1:4), He also ordained the vessels whereby those elect would be born, and their circumstances.
 - **To teach and lead the family to know, fear, and glorify God** (Duet 6:1-25; Prov 1:8; Eph 6:1-4). This aspect of parenting must work in direct action to counter the curse (Rom 1:18-3:21), Satan who is the prince of this world (Eph 2:2), and man's natural condition in sin which is truth suppression (Rom 1:18).
 - **To serve as an oasis to promote truth, righteousness, and insolate from the effects of the fall** (Prov 24:3-4). As mankind will naturally shun the things of God (John 3:19), it is imperative that parents raise their children a manner to counter their natural propensity.



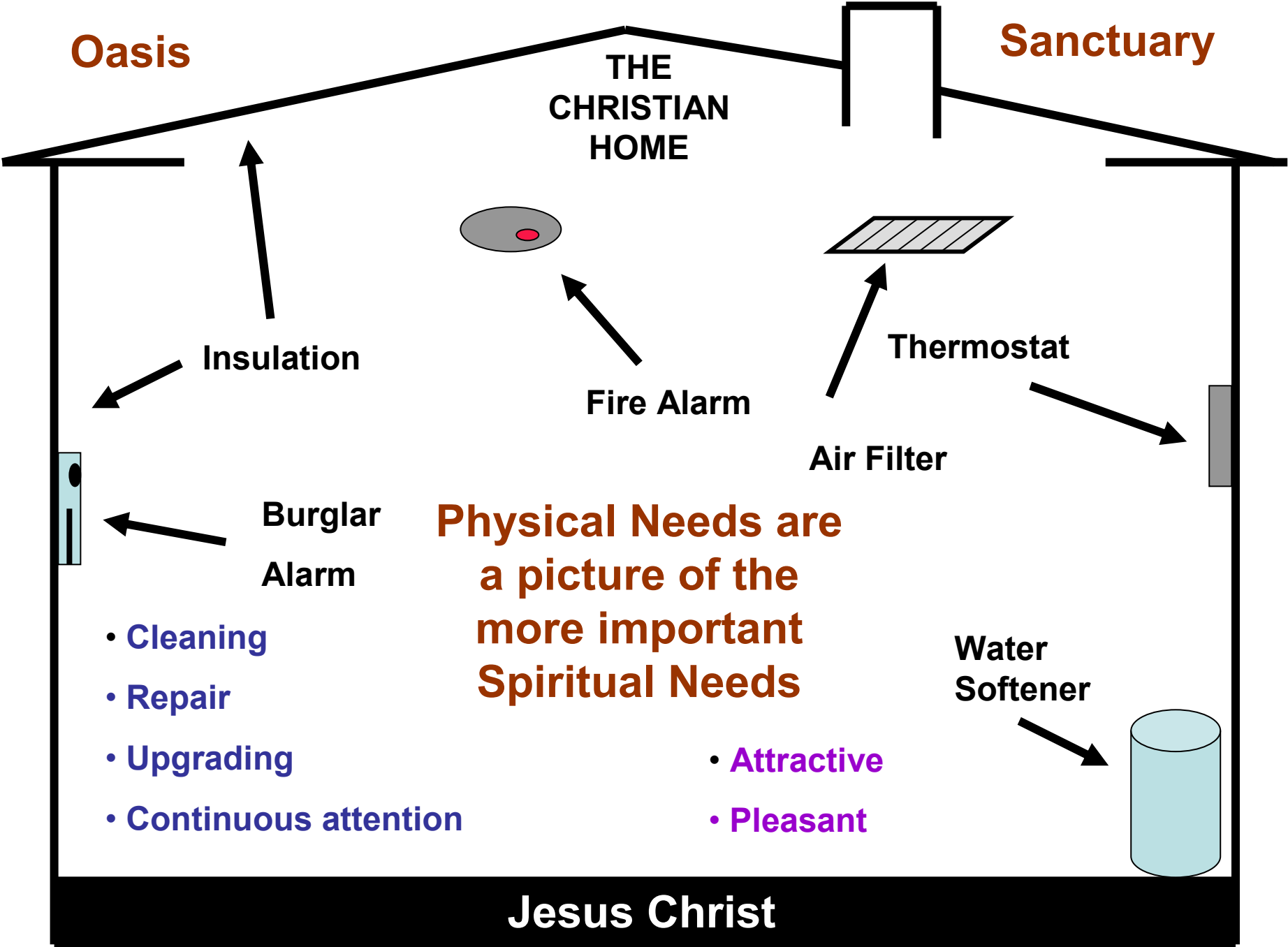
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□ Quick Review continued...

Proverbs 24:3 – the Bryant expanded translation

By God's wisdom (biblical skillful farsightedness and discernment) a Christian home is fashioned. And by using God's reasoning it is equipped, and stable in the midst of a fallen world.

And by Godly discernment, it is consecrated with a rare abundance of the most precious wonderful substance of God's joy (His presence and special blessing) that is beyond inestimable value.



Oasis

Sanctuary

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Insulation

Fire Alarm

Thermostat

Air Filter

Burglar Alarm

Physical Needs are a picture of the more important Spiritual Needs

Water Softener

- Cleaning
- Repair
- Upgrading
- Continuous attention

- Attractive
- Pleasant

Jesus Christ



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

□ Introduction:

Before discussion can move into the details of what the Bible declares concerning a Christian home, it must first be established that God has the significant role, even right to determine the definition, and character of a Christian home. The old saying “a man’s home is his castle” does not really apply biblically. The Christian home by definition is not autonomous. It cannot be Christian in name only, but the foundation, and driving philosophy is based solely on confidence in God and His Word. The attitude behind the development of the home philosophy must be clearly defined in the minds of the home leaders. It is shaped according to who God is, and thereby according to His Word.



THE
CHRISTIAN
HOME

□ God's role in the Family

- Christian homes fit into the overall purpose of God:
 - What is the purpose for every created thing? 1 Chron 29:11.
"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all."
 - What is our purpose in the things we do? 1 Cor 10:31.
"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
 - What is our purpose then in the family 1 Chron 16:24.
"Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."
 - God created the family as one of the primary institutions to deal with the effects of sin (Deut 6:2).
"so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged."



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

- Christ's right over the home:
 - Col 1:15 - 18 – Who is Jesus Christ?

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”

- Image – likeness – same essence – He is God
- Firstborn – reference to Jewish heritage – He is the heir of all things – He owns all
- All things created through Him, and for Him – the purpose of all existence is to honor Him
- Before all things – eternal
- In Him all things hold together – sovereign
- Head of the church – the chief in charge, the leader, all others are subordinate



THE
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☐ God's role in the Family

○ Christ's right over the home continued...Col 1:15-18...

“and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”

- Firstborn from the dead – the heir of all who are resurrected
- Will come to have first place in everything – reference to the coming literal kingdom – but also true now (Eph 1:22)

“And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church”

- 1 Cor 11:3 – the head over man and therefore the head of every family

“But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.”

- Col 2:10 – head over all rule and authority

“and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;”

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

- ☐ God's role in the Family





THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

○ Christ's priority in the home:

What should play a greater position of priority in your mind - your family, work, health, convenience, or God? You may answer quickly that God should hold the greater position, but is that happening in reality?

In order to understand the role of God in the family we must first establish God as the priority above all things (Mat 22:31). This does not mean that we can impress God, or contribute in some manner to our salvation. This only means this is “**our reasonable service of worship**” (Rom 12:1), and that we are not our own and therefore are called to glorify God (1 Cor 6:20). We cannot contribute or delete something from His glory, we can only comply with His glory, or thereby place it in its appropriate place by living obediently for Him. *This is our privilege and responsibility.*



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

○ Christ's priority in the home – continued...

- 1 Cor 6:19-20 – Even our own bodies belong to Him, for Him to use for His glory.

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

- Luke 9:23 – there is a placement of God before self as a continual theme of the true Christian.

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

- Rom 12:1-2 - It applies to the individual, but it extends from the individual into the family, as individuals make up the family. Each member of the family at every age should be led into the teaching and instruction of God, and honoring Him as top priority.
- 1 Cor 7:29 - In this verse we have a most unusual statement. This statement is not declaring that men should no longer care for their families, or live promiscuously – it is declaring the priority of serving God first even above the family.



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

○ Christ's priority in the home – continued...

God first, even above the family.

- Time has been shortened - The idea is that life is short, and there is only so much time to devote in service to God and that plans in life should all be formed in view of this truth.
- Should be as though they had none – This does not mean that they are to treat wives with unkindness or neglect, or fail in the duties of care, love, and fidelity. It is to be taken in a general sense of priority, they were to live above the world's standard. Their affections to God are first, and must be accomplished without hindrance, as if they had no wife. We will see later this has much to do with the management of the family.
- 1 Cor 7:33-34 states a fact of marriage, that sometimes the wife can be requiring attention that will take the husband away from his singular commitment and service to the Lord. This is given in the context of considerations before marriage. One of the goals of premarital counsel should be to make priorities clear.



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

○ Christ's priority in the home – continued...

The wife is to be a helper, and supporter, and in the right atmosphere of commitment to God by both spouses this is the case. These are matters to build in the home. Again, this has much to do with family management.

- Therefore Paul is not referring to abandonment of the family, or to selfishness, he is referring to the priority of service to God comes before all the likes, dislikes, desires, wishes, etc. of those individuals in the family. The goal is to have the home (family) working as a unified harmonious team with the same perspective of living foremost for God.
- Luke 14:26 - In fact if it should come to a choice between allegiance to the family or to God, we are to be willing to choose God even if it means falling out with our family, or even losing them.
- Everything must be subservient to God first (Genesis 22:1-14).



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

- Christ's priority in the home – continued...
 - At the heart of the family as an instrument of instruction and example is complete love and devotion to the Lord (Deut 6:5). The same command stated as the greatest commandment by Christ (Mat 22:31).
 - The exclusive nature of the focus of the family and chief role of God as the singular focus of top priority is shown in the statement made in Deut 6:4. This is not merely a theological statement of God being a monotheistic God, but that He is the One exclusive source of worship, devotion, commitment, reverence, and obedience – the focus that must be present above all else.
 - Marriage then is not about personal self-fulfillment or even family fulfillment (anymore than it is in the church). Nor is it about the parent, or parent's living out their dream. It is about living first and foremost serving God.
 - The number 1 relationship of every member of the family should be pointed first to Christ and then to one another.

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

- Christ's priority in the home – continued...
 - The family must work together in harmony as a unit, with the highest priority of each member to serve the Lord.
 - The members of the family must know by continued example and instruction that before anything else the family unit's priority is serving God.



Having this kind of understanding of the Lord's role, which is a requirement of the true Christian, will influence the attitude of the family. If there is not a top priority to place God above all else, then the family will suffer, and will not function as "a true Christian home."



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

○ Commitment to Christ in the home:

▪ Joshua 24:13 – 15

- Joshua is one of the strongest characters shown in Scripture. Although there had to be weaknesses and failures in his relationship to God, none are given in Scripture. He is shown to be a stalwart of faith, character, and commitment.
- Joshua is also one of the greatest leaders in the Bible. The husband in particular, and the wife in full support should maintain a testimony before their family demonstrating determined leadership of devotion to Christ.
- Joshua lived his life as an open book of faith put into practice. It is no wonder that he made his commitment and the commitment of his family to God a public matter. Every Christian's home should be publicly recognized as a place committed to the Lord.



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

○ Commitment to Christ in the home – continued...

▪ Joshua 24:13 – 15 – continued...

- Vs 13 – just as true in America. All blessings come from God, and He can take them or give them (Isaiah 45:7). We are undeserving just as they were undeserving (Deut 7:7). Our times are in His hands (Psalms 31:15). There is a correlation between our faithfulness, and allegiance to God and our very well-being (Ps 37). This includes the well-being of our families.
- Vs 14 – fear the Lord – reverence Him – fear is at the root of this word mixed with a recognition of the awesomeness of God. God controls our very existence, our well-being. That is why the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Prov 9:10). Appropriate fear is to be fostered in the home environment.

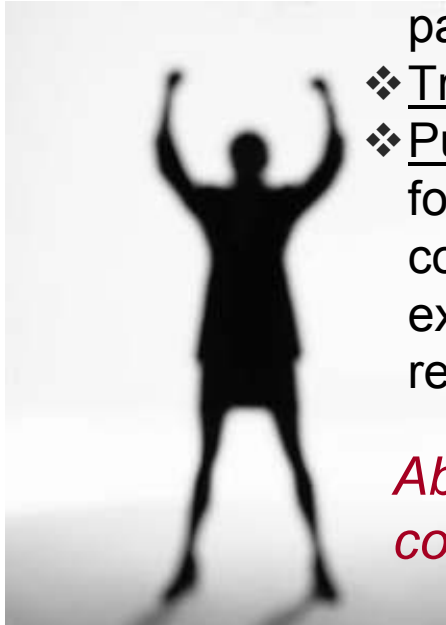
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☐ God's role in the Family

○ Commitment to Christ in the home – continued...

▪ Joshua 24:13 – 15 – continued...

- ❖ Serve Him – the root of this word is slave. The idea is submit to God in all things – He is my master – I am a love slave.
- ❖ Sincerity – entire integrity – this is not something that is part-time – absolute commitment.
- ❖ Truth – not pretentious, or partial – in genuine faithfulness
- ❖ Put away – lit – turn off – have no interest or consideration for anything that distracts your relationship with God. The commitment is strong and determined. He says this is exactly what we will do. The “we” being Joshua taking the responsibility of oversight for his household.



Absolute, resolute, dogmatic, unbending, non-compromising commitment of the family to Christ!



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

□ God's role in the Family

○ The power to have and sustain a Christian home:

▪ Psalm 127:1-5

- Builds the house – referring not to the structure, but the success of the family. Everyone is building their home – relationships, integrity, stability, quality, longevity, and value.
- Guards the house – lit – protects and preserves. This is the responsibility of the leader of the home, and how can he best do this? How can he have a successful family that is protected?
- Unless – idea is that it is entirely in the hands of God. How contrary this is to most thinking.
- Notice the adjectives used to describe the effort outside of God building and guarding – vain, rise up early, retire late – no matter how much effort or energy it will not be successful. Painful – when God is not in the picture, as contrasted with He gives His beloved sleep – rest.
- Children – spoken of as a gift, and as a blessing – however, this is only in the context of the Lord building the house. Children are a blessing when they grow up righteous (3 John 4).



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□ God's role in the Family

○ The principle for faithful family leaders:

▪ Psalm 112:1-3

- Vs 1 – his character and commitment (fears the Lord, delights in His commandments)
- Vs 2-3 – his reward:
 - descendants mighty on the earth – will be valiant, powerful in the faith (as shown from next sentence of the upright) – same word used of David's "mighty men" in 2 Sam 10:8
 - generation of the upright will be blessed – they will be a blessing to the next generation
 - wealth and riches are in his house – the word "wealth" means sufficient or enough, and "riches" possessions, physical blessings – their needs will always be met
 - righteousness endures forever – true faith, continue in the things of God, and ultimately have eternal life

Point: Contrast with Ex 34:7 – God's judgment on the sins of the father's to their son's.



THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family

- Practically – how should the end product (the Christian home) appear:
 - A dad and mom who are known as dedicated first and foremost to the Lord
 - A dad and mom who are working together to accomplish a home environment of:
 - Uncompromising devotion to the Word of God (Titus 1:9).
 - Devotion and commitment to the church - God's local assembly in this dispensation (Eph 5:25; Col 1:24; 1 Thess 2:8; 1 Tim 3:15).
 - Conversation, interest, time, energy, and effort in the things of God (Mat 6:21; Titus 1:8).
 - Obedience to the will of God in all matters of life (Mat 7:16; Gal 5: 22-24; Titus 1:6-7).
 - Submissive children that are well managed and under control (1 Tim 3:4).

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

☐ God's role in the Family



As you seek to construct your family, what must always be in the mind and attitude is:

- God is God and I belong to Him
- My purpose & the purpose of my family is to glorify Him.
- He has an absolute right to determine my home philosophy
- Whatever the Word declares about my home is my priority
- I & my home are committed to Him
- Any success must come thru Him



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Questions or
Comments!