

Building a Christian Home

Psalm 127:1 – “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.”

One of the most neglected things in the world today is building a Christian home. In the beginning God saw the need of a home and established the first one, which can be a pattern to follow. In Genesis 2:21-24 we read, “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Notice the relationship between husband and wife that is sublime – they are ONE flesh.

God’s decree was that male and female should become one, and thus establish a home here on earth. Choosing a mate is not a small matter. In fact, in Old Testament times the parents were very careful to see their sons choose the right kind of companion. Genesis 24 records a lengthy search made for a wife for Isaac. Jews were not to marry anyone from another nation because, “they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly” (Deut. 7:4). When God’s people married those outside of the nation of Israel, they turned to idols and false gods. The principle is still true today. In order to build a Christian home, God wants us to choose a marriage partner that will build a home upon the foundation of God.

The Lord intended for people to marry, but marriage is for the purpose of building the right kind of homes. Imagine selecting a cow, pig, horse, or chicken, etc. Would you pick the first one that showed interest in you? Certainly not! You might look at papers for its pedigree. You might look at its medical history and its temperament. Young people should be wise when selecting a mate for life.

The following is a list of questions a man should ask when choosing a mate to build a Christian home:

1. Will she suit me when she is old?
2. Will she help me to bring up Christian children?
3. Can I work to provide for her and our family?

The following is a list of questions a woman should ask when choosing a mate to build a Christian home:

1. Will he work?
2. Can I love and adore him when he is old?
3. Will he be the spiritual leader of our family?

A family is to make a place called home. A house does not always mean a home. It was once said, "It takes a lot of living in a house to make a home." Notice Joyce Kilmer's poem:

But a house that has done what a house should do,
A house that has sheltered life,
That has put its loving wooden arms around a man and his wife,
A house that has echoed a baby's laugh,
And held up its stumbling feet,
Is the saddest sight when left alone that ever your eyes could meet.

Build a Foundation

Without question, the absolute most important aspect of a building is the foundation and it is true when it comes to building the home. Hear the Apostle Paul as he instructs us about the foundation. "Another foundation can no man lay than that which is laid which is Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 3:11). Jesus is the foundation upon which you can build a life, a career, a business, but especially a home. When Jesus closed out the Sermon on the Mount, He focused our attention on two men, each of whom went out to build his house.

One, as you remember the parable, built his house on the sand and the rains came, and the floods descended and beat upon the house and it fell, crumbled, because it was built upon sand. The other man built his house on the rock. The solid foundation of a rock. This house was also subjected to winds, water, and rains, but it stood because it was built upon the solid foundation.

Build a wall of communication.

Depending upon who you listen to, talk to, or read their studies, there are various reasons why people end their marriages with divorce. In the evaluation oftentimes, if not most of the time, communication is referred to. Or, more often than not, it is the lack of communication.

Married couples will often say, "We just don't communicate." If you will notice, when sin came into the home of the first family in Genesis 3, immediately there was a breakdown in the communication, in the connectedness between man and wife, the couple, and the Lord.

Just listen to them as God speaks to Adam and Adam says, "The woman thou gavest me ..." Immediately he begins to stop communicating and starts blaming. Then the woman says, "The snake came ..." and he beguiled her. Oftentimes our self-centeredness or our sin-affected selfishness begins to warp our communication and we start pointing and blaming.

Build a wall of trust

No relationship can last without trust. It does not matter if it is a business relationship, or a treaty between countries, or a contract called marriage, it is built on trust. It is vital for the long-term existence of a home that a wall of trust stand. Husbands and wives need to find some way, day by day, to let their companion know they are trustworthy - - "You can trust me."

Build a wall of fun

Enjoy a relationship that God intended to be filled with delight. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine," the writer of Proverbs tells us. He also tells us that "a man who finds a wife, finds a good thing." He is right! God intended for the relationship of marriage to be filled with His blessings.

Have you ever seen a couple desire to get married who detested each other and did not enjoy each other? Absolutely not! God has something better in mind than just painful endurance. He wants you to enjoy one another.

Add a Roof

Notice this marvelous verse in I Peter 4:8, "And above all things ..." and just for the imagery, look at the home we are trying to build with a foundation of Christ, the walls, and now the roof - - "And above all things, have fervent love one for another." Paul would tell us in the great love chapter, I Corinthians 13, that "love never faileth."

When Paul said, "love never faileth," he knew that everything else would fail. There are times when you don't have enough patience, or enough understanding, or enough strength, or enough wisdom - - you may not have enough resources, enough money, enough time, and on and on we live with the limitations of life, but we can keep on loving!

Conclusion: It may look fairly simple. The plans are not elaborate for this little home, but it will take you a lifetime to construct it. Remember this, that the Lord Himself is the designer. He envisioned the home and He alone can help you build it.