

Is Your Home Missing Someone?

Brandon Johnson

Three-year old Adam and his little sister, six-month old Susan, were out of bed at six o'clock this morning. Their mother prepared their breakfast, dressed them for the day, and loaded them into the car. A few minutes later they arrived at what will be their destination for the day (at least for Adam and Susan): the Daycare. Mom unloaded the kids along with their things and dropped them off for the next eight hours. While mom was driving to work she was thinking that she had done the best for her children, herself, and her family as a whole. After all, there are college funds for Adam and Susan, her career is very important to her self-esteem and she would really like to get that new car this year. Her paycheck is 40% of their income and it is important for them to continue their type of lifestyle. Is her decision to leave her children in the care of someone else really what is best for her and her family? More importantly, what does God think best?

If we look in our New Testaments we clearly see what God considers the most important. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6.33). As Christians, we should strive to pattern our homes after God's design. God so wisely designed the institution of marriage and the home. He designed the church based upon the concept of marriage. Christ is the husband, the church is His bride. Sadly, many Christians have misunderstood or neglected God's command for the home, specifically the roles of the man and woman in the home.

In I Timothy 5.14 we read, "I will therefore that the young women marry, bear children, **guide the house**, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." Paul makes it clear that God wants wives to be keepers at home. Again we read "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, **keepers at home**, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2.4,5). The older women are to teach the young women several things, including being "keepers at home." The Greek word used in this text is OIKOURGOS which, according to Vine's, means: "working at home, some mss. have OIKOUROS "watching" or "keeping the home." (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, 1996, page 309). The wife's responsibility is to watch, guard, and keep her home. This is a full time job.

Paul makes the point in verse five of Titus chapter two that women are to fulfill these commands so the word of God will not be blasphemed, therefore, if a

wife does not fulfill her God-given duty to be a keeper at home she is giving reason for God's word to be blasphemed. The Mosaic law was very specific about those that blasphemed. The guilty were to be put to death (Leviticus 24.16). Knowing this is how God feels do we want to be guilty of blasphemy?

Today, some feel the responsibility God gave to wives is less important or less prestigious than the responsibility given to husbands. The scriptures teach that both duties are equally necessary and important. God created man and women different, both physically and emotionally. In I Peter 3.7 Peter says that the wife is the "weaker vessel." The husband is designed for hard physical labor whereas the wife is weaker physically. God designed men for the job given them, and women for the job given them. We would think it strange and foolish for a business to take a man who was trained to be an accountant and put him in the role of an engineer and vice versa. Yet, we should note that both roles are essential; neither role is more important than the other. The same goes for the home. God created men and women for their specific duties in the home and neither position is more important than the other.

Just as God said "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6.23), there are wages (consequences) if we do not obey God's command regarding the home. Because God designed human beings, we ought to realize He understands better than we what is best for our development. It has taken some men many years to come to the realization that God knows what is best. Please notice carefully the following excerpts from a study that has been taken regarding maternal care verses non-maternal care:

A study conducted by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHE) about early care given outside the home made the following discoveries:

1. The more time children spend in any of a variety of non-maternal care arrangements across the first 4.5 years of life the more aggressive, disobedience and conflict with adults they manifest at 54 months of age and in kindergarten;
2. That these seemingly adverse effects remain even after taking into account multiple features of children's families, as well as the quality and type of non-maternal care which children experienced and;
3. That the more time in care predicts not just more assertive or independent behavior, but more truly aggressive and disobedient behavior as well.

(Excerpted from The Forgotten Sides of Daycare or Under 3's Early

Childhood Care Infants and Nations at Risk by Dr. Peter Cook in which he quotes from a paper by Jay Belsky who has been a collaborating investigator on the NICHD Study of Early Childhood Care. Professor Belsky is director of the Institute for the Study of Children, Families, and Social Issues, Birkbeck University of London.)

To learn more about the effects of non-maternal care for children, please see the following website and book:

www.daycareinfo.net The Forgotten Side of Daycare for Under 3's, Dr. Peter Cook, published by The Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Copyright January 2004.

So, what is really best for little Adam and Susan? If we truly love our children, we will make sure they have a mother at home to care for them. Ephesians 6.4 commands fathers to bring up their children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." If fathers prevent mothers from being keepers at home, they are causing the mothers to forsake God's command. These same fathers would also be guilty of neglecting the duty to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Here is the big question: What are we going to do NOW? Will we continue to neglect our God-given duties? Will we continue to put money and pride in front of what is best for our family, and ultimately ourselves? Or...will husbands make it a priority to provide financially for their families so their wives can fulfill their duties given them from Heaven? Will wives set aside the desire for earthly treasures and make the sacrifices to fulfill the prestigious role God has given them? Will preachers preach and teachers teach the importance of the "keeper at home?" Will parents make it a priority to teach children their roles in their future homes? Let us teach our daughters to be keepers at home, and encourage our sons to choose a wife that will make the home what God wants it to be. Let us, as individual families in our home congregations, encourage our beloved sisters to assume the wonderful and honorable role given to women!

Joshua once asked a very important question that is still powerful today. "Choose you this day whom you 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" (Joshua 24.15). I ask the same question, who will you serve? Me and my home, we will serve the Lord, for the cause of Christ.

Brandon Johnson is a faithful young man in Oklahoma. He is known to the Haley family, and appreciated by many both here and in Oklahoma.

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

April 5, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Weekly Item Needed: Clorox Wipes

Wednesday's Wisdom:

"Tell the truth...always! You will be judged by how you speak!" Josh Haley

Sister **Lee Hall** is back home again. We're glad she made it back safely.

The **men's business meeting** will be on the 3rd Sunday of April, the 19th.

Our **Spring Study** with our local young men doing to preaching is just under two weeks away, the 18th. Be sure to be here for their lessons, encourage them in their efforts, enjoy the fellowship and help these men to grow by your attendance.