

# The Importance of the Christian Home

Our goal in this lesson is to understand the importance of a family (home) upon individual lives, schools, workplaces, communities, the country, and especially the Lord's churches. When you understand the importance of a Christian home to our world, I hope it will kindle a desire in you to contribute to the formation of a solid Christian home.

The Book of Deuteronomy records the last sermons of Moses to the children of Israel before they crossed into and conquered the Promised Land. You may recall that Moses did not enter into the Promised Land himself but died on the East side of Jordan. Therefore, the words of Deuteronomy are the last words of Moses. This is the parting wisdom of a godly man to another generation who would continue on after him. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-4 and answer the following questions.

Who was Moses calling to fear the Lord? **This was a multi-generational command. It was addressed to the current generation, their children, and their grandchildren. It was intended to continue on thereafter.**

What did God promise to those who would fear Him? **Their days would be long; things would go well for them; they would multiply greatly and be blessed in the land.**

Read a little farther down in Deuteronomy 6:13-15 and answer the following questions.

What would happen if they failed to fear God and honor Him? What if they went after other "gods"? **God's anger would be kindled and they would be destroyed from the land.**

Based on what we have just read, when you consider the success of the nation of Israel, how important was the home? By that, I mean how important was the godliness of the parents and their teaching of God's truths to their children to the welfare of their cities, tribes, and nation? **Godly parents and godly parenting was essential to the success of the people. Their nation would not survive if the home was not spiritually intact.**

Let's move to the New Testament now. The book of Ephesians was written to the Church of Ephesus by the Apostle Paul. Ephesians 6:1-4 is one of the most significant and often quoted passages about children and parents in the Bible. Keep in mind, this was written to Christians in a church, not to national Israel living in the Promised Land. Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and answer the following questions.

What responsibility is given to parents and children in this passage? **Children are to honor their parents. Parents are to avoid provoking their children to anger by disciplining and instructing them according to God's pattern.**

What is the promise given to children who honor their parents? **Honoring parents will bless the quality and quantity of their life.**

Compare Ephesians 6:1-4 and Deuteronomy 6:1-4. What are the similarities? **Both passages emphasize the importance of parents teaching God's truths to their children. Again, we see that blessing is promised to the succeeding generation if we follow this command.**

Let's make some important connections. First, understand that God is not promising us health, wealth, and prosperity in return for obeying our parents in Ephesians 6:1-4. He may provide these blessings in our life, but to God, our good is becoming more like Jesus Christ. That may mean times of difficulty or trial; but He will use all things to our good if we are saved (Romans 8:28-29).

Secondly, we need to understand that although we live within the United States, if you are saved you are a citizen of a higher country. Yet, God has left us here in this country for a reason. Read Matthew 5:13 and answer the following questions.

What does it mean to be "salt" and "light"? **Salt is a preservative used to make perishable foods last longer.**

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Light is a source of illumination. God has left us here to be a source of illumination for a world in darkness. Our presence is the reason He is continuing to make the world spin. He wants us to share the gospel so that men can be saved, otherwise there is no hope for mankind.

What happens if we fail to be salty and bright? We are no longer useful to God's purpose. We are no longer illuminating our community with God's truth and helping to preserve this world through our witness.

Truly, the fate of our communities, states, country, and world rely upon our witness in the midst of darkness. If we fail to shine as a light to them so that men can see Christ and be saved, they have no hope. Consider the account of Lot from Genesis. He was a saved man living in the midst of wicked cities (Sodom and Gomorrah). Because of the great wickedness of those cities, God pronounced judgment upon them and told Lot's uncle, Abraham that He would destroy them. After a long discussion, Abraham asked the Lord if He would spare the city if 10 righteous (saved) people could be found there (Genesis 18:32). Why would God spare the cities if ten righteous could be found? Remember Matthew 5:13. **God wasn't going to spare them so they could just enjoy a prosperous life in sin. He would spare them because they could have an influence on the surrounding culture, to bring them to knowledge of the true God.**

If we read further in Genesis 19, we find that when the angelic messengers told Lot to gather his family because the city would be destroyed. Lot went to his son-in-laws (plural) who were to be married to his daughters and was thought to be joking. As Lot flees the city with his wife and two daughters, his wife looks back against God's command, and is turned into a pillar of salt. In the resulting months after the destruction, Lot turns to drunkenness and is tricked by his daughters into committing sin with them, resulting in two children from which wicked nations would eventually come (Ammonites and Moabites). How could serious devotion to God in the home have affected the outcome of these events in the following two scenarios?

Before the destruction of the city: **First, if Lot had been serious about the Lord in his home, he might have been able to influence his wife and daughters for the Lord and would have sought out godly husbands for his daughters rather than men who thought he was joking about God's judgment. The influence of Lot's home could have produced the 10 people by which God would have spared the city.**

After the destruction of the city: **If Lot had been able to influence his wife, her life could have been spared. He might have been strong enough to resist the temptation to drink away his problems. His daughters also might have been grounded enough to know they should not commit such sins.**

It is interesting to note that God turned Lot's wife into what he should have been all along... salt. He failed to allow his light to shine, and instead hid it under a bushel.

Based on what we have discussed so far, how important is a Christian home to our community? **It is essential for our family and those around us. If we want God's favor upon our life and those we come in contact with, we must turn to Him as individuals and seek to have our homes turned toward the Lord as well.**

By now, I hope you have a better understanding of why the direction of the home is so important. When we neglect the home, we neglect the future. This is why Joshua, the head of Israel's army during the conquest of the Promised Land, made this statement after they received the land of blessing:

*"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."* – Joshua 24:15