

What is a Christian Home?

In the last lesson we established that a Christian home is essential to the welfare of the children in the home and also to our community, state, and country. It now makes sense for us to define what a Christian home is. That is our goal today, for you to understand what a Christian home looks like.

Consider the options below. What is a Christian home?

- a) A family that owns a Bible
- b) A family that attends church regularly
- c) A home in which one parent is saved
- d) A home in which both parents are saved
- e) All of the above
- f) **None of the above**

The answer to the question above may surprise you. Doesn't it take Christians to have a Christian home? Yes, but just being a Christian is not enough. Remember Lot? He was saved but that didn't make his home Christian. As I have studied this topic, I formulated a definition of a Christian home and am using it as the vision for our home.

A Christian home is a family unit in which the true knowledge of Christ, His character, presence, worship, and favor are the supreme goal.

For a home to be Christian, it must be centered upon the person of Jesus Christ, not just His name. Let's dig a little deeper into this concept. I've broken this definition down into its separate parts and included a Scripture reference and some questions.

A True Knowledge of Christ

Acts 16:31 - *"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."*

Philippians 3:8 - *"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ" (ESV)*

Having the true **knowledge** of Christ as the goal means that we seek for everyone in our family to be **saved** and to deepen our knowledge and experience of the fullness of Jesus Christ.

How should we pursue the salvation of our family members in our homes? **We should make the gospel known to everyone in our home telling them about Jesus and their need for a Savior, sharing our testimonies, praying for their salvation, and seeking every opportunity to show them their need for Christ. We need to support our testimony with our life too. If possible, we should bring them to church to hear the preaching of the gospel and see the love that exists in the fellowship of the saints.**

Even after family members in our home get saved, we should encourage one another to grow deeper in our knowledge of Christ by seeking His face together, sharing His love, digging into the Word together and ministering side by side. The Apostle John said that he had no greater joy than to see his children walking in the truth (3 John 4). It is a blessing to serve God with your family!

The Character of Christ

Galatians 5:22-23 - *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

Matthew 5:3-12 – The Beatitudes

Seeking to have the character of Christ in our home requires growing in the **fruits** of the Spirit, striving to treat each other in accordance with these virtues and teaching them by **example**.

What is a Christian Home?

What examples of this character have you seen at home or in church? What impression has it made on you?

What happens when we talk about Jesus but fail to grow in His character? See James 1:22. **If we try to talk about Christ but fail to live like Him, we deceive ourselves. Christianity is more than talk, it is a real change on the inside that produces real change on the outside.**

The Presence of Christ

Psalm 145:18 - *"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."*

John 14:23 - *"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."*

Christ will be present in our home by the Holy Spirit when we seek Him by sincere **prayer** and diligently try to **live** by His commandments.

There is nothing so humbling to the proud or strengthening to the weak as the presence of God. His presence can expose our sin, lead us to worship, encourage us, bless us, fill us to overflowing, and bring us to our knees. Psalm 19:11 tells us that in His presence is the fullness of joy. What will our home be like if the presence of Christ dwells among us? **A home where Christ dwells is a home where true joy abides. It will truly be a happy home.**

The Worship of Christ

Joshua 24:15 - *"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."*

We worship Christ in our home when we give Him the **honor** He deserves in our family and private worship and by our **obedience** to His commands.

It makes sense that if our home is filled with the presence of Christ, there will be worship. Does your family worship God in your home? Our family worships God regularly when we gather together to pray, sing, study His Word, and share what God is doing in our lives.

The Favor of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:9 - *"So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him."* (ESV)

Aligning your home with Jesus Christ aligns your home with the **blessing** and **favor** of God.

What is the greatest compliment you could ever receive? Read Matthew 25:21. **Hearing Jesus say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant" is the greatest compliment a man could ever receive.**

How important is it to seek Christ's favor? Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. **It is of utmost importance to seek to please Him in all things. Everything we do should be done for His glory.**

When a household is seeking to know Christ, to become more like Him, enjoy His presence and worship Him, it will be pleasing to Him. Ultimately, this is our whole goal for the home. We should make all of our decisions by considering this important question: will this please the Lord?

What if my home is not a Christian home?

If you are saved, you can still bring the influence of Christ upon the home and pray that He overcome the darkness to make the home His own. That is the amazing thing about Jesus, He can redeem anything! Read 1 Corinthians 7:14-16 for some encouraging words about how one saved person in the home can influence those who are lost.