

A HAPPY HOME
By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" I Cor . 3:11.

It is very clear to anyone who builds, that the proper foundation is crucial to anything to be built. Many things have crumbled in our country because the foundation was not thought through and plan followed. This is so very true of Gods construction, pictured in the Bible as a home. The home that pleases God is the one that is built by the blue print given in His Word. If you have a great Christian home it came about with years of Godly obedience and careful spiritual construction. I want to suggest some Biblical requirements you must meet to have a happy Christian home. **(1). Lifelong Christian Relationship:** *"Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female. And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleve to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man out asunder" Matt. 19:4-6.* True Godly marriage begins with one man and woman pledging to live together until death . Same sex marriage is a formula for doom and fails most of the time. The divorce rates among today's married is also a shame and disgrace. God instituted it for a lifetime relationship, recorded in heaven. Marriage should be approached prayerfully as two people who know Christ and will serve Him forever. Your marriage should be a lifetime relationship. **(2). Spiritual Unity:** *"Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" II Cor. 6:14.* And *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed" Amos 3:3?* Be sure your future partner is a true believer as are you. Only confusion and conflict will result if one of the partners is not saved. There must be

a oneness in Christ and a combined love for Christ, without which you home will never be one of spiritual communion. **(3). Follow the Bible Pattern:** Look up Eph 5:22-25 and notice the wife's relationship to her husband, his responsibility to lead, and both being subject to Christ in everything. The man is the head, Ester 1:22, he must support his wife fully, I Peter 3:7. You men are commanded to lead the family and the wife as the weaker vessel must follow. Let's put all the jokes aside and understand this will put great stability into your family. Tragic family ruining arguments develop when everyone, including junior, wants their way. **(4). Daily Involvement:** *" That ye be not slothful but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" Heb. 6:12.* A happy Christian home takes the combined efforts of every member of the family. Dad you must keep sincere rule and control over family activities. Mom you are so vital to please your husband, and keep the kids cared for daily. You kids get busy and clean up that pig pen you call your bedroom, Ha! There are lawns to mow, trash to carry, and all must share without complaint in the operation of your home. Always remember *"Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" Eph. 4:23.* **(5). Self Discipline:** *"And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of a doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after; and your father knoweth ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you" Luke 12:29-31.* Do not press your family with the need of things, and worry over the problems of this time. Beware of covetousness and over emphasis on possessions. Money worry can become a time consuming desire in which you forget, the Lord knows exactly what you need. It is necessary to work hard for the purchase of the needs of the family, and not to be lazy. Discipline yourself to wrap your family around you as parents, and bring your

kids up to know the provision of God. He can provide another job or help in a health crisis as you practice self discipline. **(6). Discipline Your Children:** "*Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying*" Prov. 19:18. Never allow disobedience to gain the upper hand. Clearly adopt home and family rules and keep them. "*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction will drive it far from him*" Prov. 22:15. I am not suggesting abuse, but firm, private, correction, followed by sincere apology by the guilty party. You dare not run your family like the unsaved one next door. Be sure you correct in love and not anger. The results of proper correction are guaranteed by God. "*Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it*" Prov. 22:6. **(7). Family Worship.** "*Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon thy hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up, and thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates.*" Deut. 11:18-20. Notice the continual training of the family day by day. Oh yes, faithful attendance to all the services of your church, but the whole family should live in the reminders of the presence of God. It should be a continual daily process of teaching and example. **(8). Praise And Rebuke:** "*A man has joy by the answer of his mouth : and a word spoken in due season, how good it is*" Prov. 15:23. Dear parent, look for something you can praise your child for, and often do it. Wife, hold up your husband high in esteem and be a voice of encouragement. Husband, take time to encourage her for all the things you often take for granted. Families who praise one another hold together with satisfaction in this evil world. Don't hesitate to carefully point out failure, but do it in a loving way, and labor

together to correct the problems that exist. **(9). Reward and Penalties:** Particularly with young one in your home, reward obedience and put a penalty on rebellion. A night out for the family can be a focal point for one of your kids accomplishments. One man told his wife he was going to take her to an expensive place. He then drove them to a gas station. I hope he went beyond the joke and went on to somewhere nice. We need to constantly stress the need for faithfulness. Rev. 2:10 promises, "*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life.*" Reward for obedience by any believer stretches like a silver cord throughout the Bible. Galatians 6:7 reminds us there are also penalties, "*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*" Our responsibility as Christian parents is a sobering responsibility. Perhaps I can squeeze in one more. **(10). Constant Example:** Every believer is watched by the sinners around us, and also the children of God. "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*" Eph. 2:10. We can fill our homes with the cesspool of entertainment garbage, or fill it with good Christian music. We can show the neighbors we listen to the same evil fleshly trash or choose something far better. We can step out on the town in places we have no business visiting We can divorce and split and be unfaithful to our family wreck our testimony and become a laughing stock before the world. We need rather to be "*examples of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit in faith, in purity*" I Tim. 4:12. Lets make our home sweet home a profoundly spiritual home, and great will be our reward, now and in eternity. Come on dear one, build a Godly home.