

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

(JOS 24:15b)

INTRODUCTION

God began human existence with a marriage and a family. The first community that God established was a family and a home. He had relationship with man in the context of the family before the setting of the church.

The Israelites did not have a formal place of worship until the Tabernacle of Moses.

Prior to this, the place of worship was the HOME, and all worship was directed and led by the head of the home, the husband and father (DEU 6:4-9)

However, many Christians do not see their homes to be as sacred as the church. They have undervalued & underestimated God's perspective and heart for the home and we have replaced the home with the church.

For many Christians and their families all spirituality is exercised IN church, all prayer is IN church, all teaching is IN church - and not in the home.

In many Christian homes there has been an abdication of responsibility for godly leadership, family worship and spiritual discipleship.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of the Cool discussion is to highlight and outline the importance of 'home' and 'family' to God.

God's pattern for 'family' and His principles for blessing in the home and to challenge the modern trends that endanger the true Christian family and home.

How do we experience genuine divine blessing in our home? What can we do to reinitiate God's pattern for the home?

DISCUSSION

1. CHOOSE TO MAKE YOUR HOME GOD'S HOME

JOS 24:11-15 "... As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord"

Joshua made a choice for his home. His choice was for his household to serve one God only, to worship one God only. A choice against idolatry and for faithfulness. Regardless of the choices of others, Joshua's wife and children knew which way he would lead them.

The challenges of Joshua's day are no less than those we live among today. We have to choose to live according to God's design for us IN OUR HOMES and FAMILIES.

Is my home His home? It's no good saying ... 'well of course it is because I'm a Christian' - it involves much more than that. There is a secular pressure on Christian homes today to compromise our highest spiritual values.

Do we behave at home as we do at church? Do we pray & worship at home as we do at church? Do we worship the Only True God at home as we do at church? or do we compromise, due to our secular environment pressure?

Jacob made a clear decision for the spiritual direction of his family, to worship the true God (GEN 35:2-5)

2. WELCOME HIS PRESENCE TO YOUR HOME

2 SAM 6:9-11 "... The Lord blessed him and his entire household"

For 3 months the most awesome symbol of God's presence was seated in Obed-Edoms home.

This box was the most sacred article in all of Israel's history - the most powerful object on the face of the earth. A box measuring 110 x 66 x 66 cm (EXO 25:10) was the focal point of his home.

I am certain beyond doubt that this box changed the way they lived in that house.

Every day for 3 months they were aware that God was living with them, lodging in their lounge.

When God's presence is welcomed and encouraged, a home is truly blessed.

In most of our homes there is a box which is the focal point. The furniture points toward it and too often our attention is too focussed upon it. It has the power to shape our home life, form our children, corrupt our values, disturb our relationships and control our diaries. In many Christian homes the TV is "read" more often than the Bible. This is not an anti-TV message, because I do enjoy TV as well, however it should not be the focal point in the home.

The box at the centre of Obed-Edoms' house brought blessing. It reminded them DAILY of God's presence and goodness to Israel, His faithfulness, promises, covenant, power and glory.

Inside the ark of the covenant were 3 items (HEB 9:4):

- The two stone tablets of the law given to Moses, symbolises of God's Word in our homes
- Aarons budding staff, symbolises God ordained leadership in our homes
- A jar of manna from Israel's wilderness wanderings, symbolises God's provision in our homes

Each of these I believe should be represented in our homes, and when they are, God's presence will definitely be felt in our homes. Furthermore, like Obed-Edom, we too, will be blessed as God is acknowledged, values and treasured in our homes.

3. BUILD AN ARK OF SALVATION IN YOUR HOME

HEB 11:7 "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family"

Noah did all he could to save his family from the impending judgement on the earth. He could not drag them into the ark - but he warned them and built their way of escape in his home.

The salvation of our homes is of paramount importance. We cannot save our families only God can. But we can build in our homes what God has given us the design of and that is a home that always points our families to Jesus, the Saviour.

Our children will make their own choices - but we must point them in the right way.

One day my children will 'leave home'

One day they will 'set up home' - But I pray that

One day they will declare 'As for me and my house we will serve the Lord'

CONCLUSION

So where do we begin? How do we initiate God's for our home?

Firstly, we need to ensure that we choose to serve ONLY the true God and there is no other gods in our homes.

I have a neighbour who believes that the more gods they worship the more blessing they would receive. So in his homes, we can clearly see all kind of gods from all religions are there.

But our God clearly said in EXO 34:14 that God is a jealous God and He doesn't want us to worship other gods !

Secondly, remember to build an altar in our homes, worship together in unity with our family, practice God's leadership, show example as Christ likeness parents to our children and encourage faithfulness in our homes.

Thus, God's presence is felt in our homes and His blessing will be overflow in our homes.

And lastly, remember to educate and establish Godly values in our homes, showing the true way for our children to worship the True God, amen!