



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Philippians, Colossians, Philemon Sermon Series
Supports Session 12: The Gospel and Relationships
Sermon Title: Home Missions
Passage: 1 Peter 3:1-7

Connection to Colossians 3:18–4:6

The apostle stressed the necessity of Christ-centered homes. Peter echoed the sentiments of Paul's appeals to husbands and wives.

Introduction/Opening

We rightly celebrate people who leave our congregation and go abroad to proclaim the gospel and meet humanitarian needs. However, we tend to forget that similar circumstances exist within miles of most of our church facilities. Each of us has a mission field where our daily mail is delivered. Paul and Peter were missionaries, but they also saw the need for devoted disciples to share the gospel and sacrificially live for Jesus within the walls of their homes.

Outline

1. Wonderful wives
 - a. Peter emphasized the importance of inward beauty; he did not condemn beautiful women. While physical beauty is superficial and passes quickly with age, inward beauty grows greater with every year. The beauty suggested by Peter is within the reach of every believer. It is the beauty of the gift of faith from Jesus Christ. It is within reach; moreover, it is the intention of God for the wives adorning the homes that belong to Him.
 - b. Wonderful wives pray for the spiritual and material needs of their husbands. Husbands are won without words by pure reverent lives (1 Pet. 3:2). The power of example does not negate the call for good communication between marriage partners. Clear channels of communication are essential for any organization, especially the home.
 - c. Wonderful wives are not averse to being called submissive. Like Sarah, they are willing for their homes to have a spiritual, godly leader. The picture emerging from the New Testament is a loving partnership of husband and wife. No revealed relationships of the New Testament foster a dictator husband and an unquestioning minion for a wife. A house divided cannot stand; a competitive home is not a happy home. As the years pass, the spouses find themselves in loving reliance upon one another by functioning as a team.

2. Helpful husbands

- a. A Christian father should be concerned about the proclamation and example of the gospel at home. He is to be a selfless, loving, worthy leader.
- b. First, fathers should be present. The Scriptures reveal that fathers who are worthy to serve as deacons are to support their families by providing loving nurture and powerful examples in the community (1 Tim. 3:4-7). Fathers are not to embitter their children with harsh, dictatorial authority (Col. 3:19,21). Rather, they are to be loving examples.
- c. Fathers are to have a spiritual relationship with Jesus that is growing. Not only does he exhibit a healthy prayer life, but he is concerned that his prayer life not be hindered by his improper conduct within his home mission field.
- d. The Bible paints an inspired picture of a gracious, loving father within each family unit. Through examining the portrait in Scripture, each husband/father will see a worthy target for their role within the home. It is a home mission calling each father in Jesus should take to heart.

3. Civil children

- a. The picture within the home is one of responsibilities. The wife is responsible to be supportive of the husband; the husband is responsible to be kind and caring to his wife and children. The children are responsible to be respectful and obedient. The child's responsibility is to be teachable by loving parents.
- b. Children must be taught in the home to respect and follow the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Parents are to witness to their children about the saving grace of Jesus. How wonderful for fathers and mothers to be the ones to lead their children to repentance and belief in Jesus.
- c. A child needs to witness the noble and sacrificial examples of their parents for them. The power of example impacts a child willfully and unconsciously. Sadly, some children involuntarily repeat the example of abuse they have witnessed at home, not knowing it is wrong to scream and use physical force on others under their roof. In the same way, some of us don't realize that we are kind to our spouses and children not because we have made that choice, but because we involuntarily follow what we have seen. We have hope; our home mission examples will do the same.

Conclusion

Before it was the North American Mission Board, the agency was called the Home Mission Board. The Southern Baptist Convention looked within the borders of the United States to see mission opportunities and meet those needs.

The mission field that should be first in our thoughts and prayers is the one under our roofs. If that mission field is lost, nothing else we accomplish will matter. If believers think we can only be missionaries by going overseas, we are greatly mistaken. The gospel needs to be proclaimed and powerfully lived on our home mission field.

Ken and Welda Cox live in New Boston, Texas. In 2012 Ken retired from First Baptist Church after 20 years of service. Ken has been active in prison ministry since 1995 and presently serves as interim pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Omaha, Texas. Ken and Welda have six children and nine grandchildren.