Pillars of the Truth

Article #12

*Happiness and Harmony in the Home*

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They had been married for decades. They were a source of inspiration to all who knew them. They were excellent examples of true love. The precious wife observed: “I cannot remember the time when I have been unhappy since my wedding day. Although for a few years I had to use a clothing box for a dining table, I was happy with what I had.” How beautiful! Our homes should be a haven and an early heaven. A happy home is the bud of which heaven is the blossom. Yes, a happy home is a foretaste of glory divine.

Henry Ward Beecher said, “A man’s house should be on the hilltop of cheerfulness and serenity, so high that no shadows rest upon it and where the morning comes so early and the evening tarries so late that the day has twice as many golden hours as those of other men. He is to be pitied whose house is in some valley of grief between the hills, with the longest nights and the shortest day. Home should be the center of joy, equatorial and tropical.” However, instead of the home being a place of happiness and early heaven, many homes are caldrons of strife, turmoil, quarreling, ill will, suspicion, jealousy and fault finding. How different does God desire it? He, rather, desires that our homes be places of peace, tranquility, love, understanding, and fulfillment.

**The Scriptures Teach That our Homes**

**Are To Be Happy and Harmonious**

Jeremiah 16:9 reads, “For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.” Observe the statements of joy.

Solomon said, “Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest” (Ecc. 9:9). Proverbs 5:18 says, “rejoice with the wife of thy youth.” God legislated in the Old Testament: “When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: *but* he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken” (Deu. 24:5).

Proverbs 17:1 states, “Better *is* a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices *with* strife.” Proverbs 21:9 adds, “*It is* better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.” Isaiah speaks of the bridegroom rejoicing over the bride. Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each *of you* in the house of her husband” (Ruth 1:8-9).

All these passages emphasize that our homes are to be places of **harmony** and **happiness**. The home was established to contribute to man’s happiness. Thus, when a home does not contribute to the happiness of those who live therein, it is falling short of one of its God-designed purposes.

Tragically, many homes do not fulfill this Divine design. Maybe you have heard about the

little girl who was showing her playmate their new home. Coming to a large room, she paused and said, “This is my father’s den.” The playmate asked, “Does your father have a den?” The little girl responded, “No, he just growls all over the house.” Then, there was the man who was asked if he woke up grouchy that morning. He responded: “No, I just let her sleep this morning.” Let us avoid being grouchy and growling. Let us be happy, peace-loving, and peace-making.

**To Make Happiness A Reality In our**

**Homes—REMEMBER:**

**Realize happiness is a possibility**. Happiness and tranquility in the home is not an elusive dream. Effort must be extended toward this reality, but it is possible. **Make happiness a goal**. Remember, if we aim at nothing, we are sure to hit it. Set realistic and challenging goals for you and your family. **Work at the job of building a happy home**. Happiness in the home does not come about by merely reading about it, or just wishing for it. Rather, peace and tranquility comes as a result of effort and work. Somebody said a successful marriage is 98% perspiration and 2% inspiration. **Pray for it**. John 15:7 says that we may ask what we will (according to His will). Surely, we will (desire) happiness and harmony in our homes. **Avoid little quarrels**. A famous judge once said, “Avoid the little quarrels and the big ones will take care of themselves.” **Learn and practice the grace of contentment**. In our homes, let us learn to say with the apostle Paul, “I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content” (Phi. 4:11). An old proverb says, “A contented mind is a continual feast.” **Understand that happiness is not tied to** **“things” (externals)**. Happiness in the home is inseparably tied to meaningful relationships maintained by each member losing himself in the interest, welfare, and desired good of the other members of the family. **Love and happiness are inseparable**. Joy and love are mentioned in the same passage in Ecclesiastes 9:9.

**Conclusion**

There is nothing more beautiful than the building and maintaining of a happy home. Such contributes immeasurably to the members therein having the exalted privilege of one day being at home with God in the home of the soul.