

From Where I Sit . . .

Fall Gospel Meeting: The Home As God Would Have It

There is a good deal of evidence that the family unit as we once knew it is breaking up, and many of us have had to redefine what we mean by the word "family." Single parents make up a significant percentage of today's family units. Many grandparents are being forced into raising grandchildren where their own parents have abdicated responsibility.

Many children are being raised in broken homes from divorce. Many children may come to be raised in homes of lesbian and homosexual unions. These are not Biblical families, but society is being bombarded by propaganda to make this relationship acceptable.

Now more than ever in the history of our nation, we need to re-examine God's focus on the family: The strength of the nation -- in fact the welfare of the world -- as well as the survival of the church -- is bound up within families. Thayer has written: "As are families, so is society. National greatness springs from well-ordered ones."

Madam D'Estelle is reported to have responded to Napoleon Bonaparte's inquiry: "What does France need the most?" with a single word answer that we all love to hear, "Mothers." It's the same today. The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.

God's love has always been centered on the family, both the spiritual family, his church, and the physical family, the home. From the beginning, God ordained families, and then used the home as the basis for his communication and work with mankind. He worked through Noah and his family both in saving them and in providing for the repopulation of the earth. He worked through Abraham's family to bring about a great nation of Israel, and eventually the blessing upon the whole world in the birth of Christ. In Gen 18:19, speaking of Abraham, we find the first glimpse of the importance of family teaching and instruction in pleasing God: "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgement; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." And who can forget Joshua's bold declaration on behalf of his entire family, "...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

In five lessons from Sunday morning through Wednesday night we will be dealing with "The Home As God Would Have It." Broad Street members need to plug the dates October 27-30 into your schedule and be at each service. Furthermore, this material will be helpful to all your friends, neighbors, and relatives. Let's do some personal preparation for a great Gospel Meeting!! We will conduct an aggressive advertising campaign, but nothing replaces your one on one encounters.

..... Terry Broome

Printed in the *Broad Street Banner*, Volume XVII, Number 41, October 16, 2002.