

HOME LIFE

"In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble." (15:6)

INTRODUCTION—When God designed the home, He had man's best interests in mind (18:22; 19:14; Genesis 2:18). It was not designed to be a battleground, but rather a haven. Although Proverbs does not provide pat answers for all the problems the home faces, it does point us in the right direction. Its instructions are worthy and valid for having successful families. It impresses us with the personal responsibility of **every** family member for the benefit of the whole (11:29).

I. PURPOSE OF A HOME

- A. Contribute to the Happiness of Each Member (5:18; 10:1; 15:20; 17:6; 23:15-16; 29:3; 31:28). Families are God's way of blessing all of us (cf. Psalm 127:3-5; 128:3-4). The righteous family member brings happiness to all the rest.
- B. Training Ground for Children (22:6; 23:14; 1:8-9). In the home, children get the direction and guidance necessary to grow and develop. They also receive instruction that will prepare them and stick with them into adulthood (4:1-13; 6:20-23).

II. MAKINGS OF A HOME

- A. Complementing One Another. Each family is comprised of different members with various roles and responsibilities. Each has his own place and effect on all the other members of the home. Their lives are all interrelated and influence one another.
 1. Husband and Father (20:7; 17:6; 15:27). His wise and righteous life benefits his family.
 2. Wife and Mother (14:1; 12:4; 31:10-31). She may have the most pivotal, important position in the home, with the success or failure of that home dependent upon her.
 3. Children (10:1; 15:20). They are either a blessing or a curse. Some of the proverbs are addressed to the children to convince them that their lives can bring either joy or sorrow to their parents.
 - a. Good Children (23:15-16,24-25; 29:3,17). They are a delight to their parents—children of whom they can be proud.
 - b. Bad Children (17:21,25; 19:27). Even a parent's love for these children cannot make the pain and the shame go away—it only intensifies them!
 4. Aged (17:6). Here we see the solidity and harmony of family life spanning three generations. Instead of 'generation gaps,' each generation finds enrichment in and derives honor from the other. Grandchildren are the blessing of the elderly. Older family members have much to contribute to their family (20:29; 16:31).

III. WORTH OF A GOOD HOME

- A. It May be Man's Most Precious Possession (24:3-4; 15:6).
- B. Unity is the Most Important Thing a Family Can Have (15:17; 17:1). It is far more valuable than the greatest wealth and pleasures.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—

- 1) *Did God bless us with the roles and responsibilities of the home or curse us?*
- 2) *Can any family member live without having an effect on the others?*
- 3) *Why was the home and family relationship established?*
- 4) *What do children learn in the formative years while at home (4:1-13; 6:20-23)?*
- 5) *Where does a child learn how to discipline himself and respect authority?*
- 6) *Should children be made to attend worship services and Bible study?*
- 7) *Why may the wife/mother be the most pivotal person in the family (14:1)?*
- 8) *Why does one's love for his children intensify the pain when that child goes astray?*
- 9) *What place do the elderly have in the family (cf. 20:29; 16:31)?*
- 10) *How important is a good home?*