

# Home Sweet Home

## *“Things That Make For Happy & Healthy Homes”*

- Introduction:
1. Someone has said that there’s no place like home if you don’t have the money to go out.
  2. Hopefully, our homes are not a drudgery, but a blessing in which we are nurtured and find fulfillment.
  3. God intended for the family and the home to be for our good.
  4. But healthy homes “require assembling.”
  5. In this lesson, I would like to present several suggestions that will help our homes be healthy and happy.

### **I. Healthy Homes Are Committed Homes**

- A. Do you remember the first year of your marriage?
  1. Was it a bed of roses?
  2. Was it a rude awakening?
- B. Commitment is the glue that holds marriages together.
  1. There are times when you may be angry with your spouse.
  2. There are times when you don’t even like your spouse.
- C. Commitment is necessary in order to allow time to heal wounds and change behavior.
- D. (1 Peter 4:8) “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.”

### **II. Healthy Homes Honor Each Other**

- A. (1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:33) “Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife...and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”
- B. Besides you, nobody knows your faults better than your spouse.
  1. What are you going to do with that information?
  2. Are you going to humiliate each other with it?
  3. Is it just done in jest? — ills. of wrestling and my broken nose.

### **III. Healthy Homes Keep Courtship Alive**

- A. What would happen if you bought a plant and set it in the corner, away from all sunlight and failed to water it?
- B. This is exactly what some people are doing to their marriages.
- C. (Ephesians 5:29) Nourish and cherish.
- D. What would your spouse think if you showed him or her the same courtesies you did before you were married?
- E. One of the major reasons people come to the conclusion that they no longer love their spouse is because they have neglected courtship and allowed their romantic feelings for each other to die.

#### **IV. Healthy Homes Practice Forgiveness**

- A. (Ephesians 4:32) “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another just as God in Christ also forgave you.”
- B. Harboring resentment toward each other — or failing to let go of past mistakes is a major factor in the breakdown of homes.
  - 1. It occupies your mind and keeps you from accomplishing positive things.
  - 2. Illustration of fishing line that gets tangled.
- C. Failing to forgive — storing up bits and pieces of past arguments and fusses is like a slop bucket.
- D. The art of forgiveness is seldom practiced because it is so costly.
  - 1. To forgive, one must suffer because of the offense and in turn, bless the offender with mercy.
  - 2. This demands maturity.

#### **V. Healthy Homes Put God First**

- A. A home will never be would it could be; it will never experience the greatest amount of joy and fulfillment; it will never reach its potential until God is factored in.
- B. (Matthew 6:33).
- C. God created the home and knows best how we ought to function within it.
- D. The problem with today’s family is not with its divine design and the unique roles God has assigned within it — these are not the problems but the solutions.
- E. When a couple is first and foremost committed to God, they will then naturally treat each other right.
- F. It must be remembered that the home is not an end in and of itself, it is proving ground to prepare us for Heaven.

- Conclusion:
- 1. A successful home does not depend so much on finding the right kind of mate, as it does in being the right kind of mate.
  - 2. Whether you have a happy and healthy home depends largely upon you.
  - 3. If this is your desire — the first step is to make sure you have a relationship with God.