

Theology of the Home: Ordering Our Homes to Please God

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How is my home a place that is honoring to God? How do I conduct my home life in a way that is right and pure and good? Practical ways to honor God at home: personally, financially, spiritually and relationally. Join us as we dig into God's Word to foster a home that honors Christ.

Introductions

Class: share name with class AND

What would you like to **learn** in this class? **Why** did you **come**?

Introductory verses:

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I also try to please everyone in everything, not seeking my own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved.

-1 Cor. 10:31-33

In context of relationships with people – going into *their* homes. This can apply to our home life as well. Whatever we do, do everything for the glory of God. What does that look like in our lives? Married? Kids? Single? Empty-nesters? Various home lives represented here.

As we consider the theology of the home...

We want to glorify God in everything we do.

*A healthy home life will overflow into a healthy public life.

An unhealthy home life will eventually overflow into an unhealthy public life.

Can be covered up for a short time, but it will spill out. Relationally, financially, spiritually.

Who I am at home is who I am. Most comfortable at home. My family knows my flaws very well because they spend the most time with me at home. Or my silliness – that used to be private. Until my daughter posts videos!

Parents: the trickle-down effect is stronger than you know.

Story: Youth Min 4 years in GB. Vast majority of those students who are following the Lord *now* were raised to follow the Lord at *home*. The ones who are not following the Lord were not raised to do it at home. As a youth pastor, I had a handful of hours with them each week, but the most formative influence was mom or dad – their family, their *home*.

BIG Q. How can I honor God in my home?

1. Glorify God in Relationships

A. Walk with the LORD

Micah 6:8

*Mankind, he has told each of you what is good
and what it is the Lord requires of you:
to act justly,
to love faithfulness,
and to **walk humbly with your God.***

Romans 12:12

*Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in **prayer.***

Walking with the Lord requires *discipline* at home. Reading God's Word. Praying. Journaling. Talking about the Lord with your kids all the time. What are you learning. Resource: Habits of Grace- Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines by David Mathis

Q. What stops you from walking with the LORD?
What stops you from prayer, reading God's Word?

B. Invest in Your Family

Faithfulness in your marriage. Work on growing your marriage – this looks different in different seasons. Ideas: date nights, books about marriage, counseling, etc. Resources: Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas; anything by Gary Chapman

Faithfulness to your kids. They are only in your home for 18 years. The days may seem long, but the years fly by. Spend time both in intentional teaching moments AND in times without an agenda (hanging out and doing what they like to do). Resources: Mama Bear Apologetics (Ferrer), Talking with Your Kids About God (Natasha Crain). Let me know if you want more resources.

C. Give Yourself Rest

-Rest from the noise of the world – dinnertime should be device free.
Book recommendation: *12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You* by Tony Reinke (might be in our RC)
No phones at the table! Charging station.

-Sleep! Are you getting enough sleep? Why or why not? Invest in a good mattress if you can! Rhythms before bed: winding down time, reading (read with kids before bedtime!), prayer, singing to kids, etc...

-Sabbath! Exodus 20:8-11

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy: You are to labor six days and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You must not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates. For the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.

What day do you rest? We rest because we need it physically, mentally, emotionally AND we rest to remember the LORD is the Creator! Notice – the seventh day is a Sabbath *to the Lord your God!*

I don't always do this well. Rest is hard for me. I love being productive and rest does not feel productive. But I will hit emotional walls if I don't rest. Me: Email at night. Bitten a few times! Gotten a stressful email that disturbed me and did not sleep well! I don't check email at night.

Q. What stops you from resting? Also, if you have a spouse or kids, how can you help them rest?

2. Glorify God with Your Time

What am I doing when I am at home?

WISDOM - Make *best* use of the time!

Ephesians 5:15

*Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise - making the most of the **time**, because the days are evil.*

A. Rhythms of Work

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

Warnings against being a sluggard:

Proverbs 13:4:

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Proverbs 6:6-11

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider her ways and be wise! ... How long will you lie there, you sluggard? ... poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

Q. What keeps you from working at home?

"I'm tired." That's me often.

Our life situation will provide different answers (our kids' needs, lack of sleep when they were young and our lack of sleep now that they are teens)

Grow in skills for the glory of God – music, art, building, fixing

B. Rhythms of Rest

For us:

Monday-Friday work schedule (My day off is Friday – no church work)

Saturday is home work time – bills, mail, clean house, yard work

Sunday is rest – the *afternoon* at least!

C. Rhythms of Play

Leisure – spend time doing something that fills you up. Reading, chain sawing, etc...

Social Media/streaming/gaming – how much time?

There is a place for this – one of the ways I rest! (not social media, but sports on TV, movies), but we can take it too far and our time will be sucked up primarily by endless scrolling, streaming, gaming...

Set limits for yourself, your kids! This could be a whole session (or series of sessions!) on its own. Resource: The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt. The boundaries you set up around phones is one of the most important things you can do for your health and the health of your children!

Set up home to not make amusement the center – for us TV is downstairs. Conversation happens more naturally when the TV is not staring at you – TV is just easier than conversation, but it's not healthier!

3. Glorify God with Your Resources

A. Hospitality – open up your home to others

Romans 12:13

Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

1 Peter 4:8-10

*Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Be **hospitable** to one another without complaining. Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.*

Hospitality is often *teens*. They smell. They are noisy. They make a mess. When Jill and I were younger we wanted to be the hangout home – but this requires selfless service.

Also, it has provided opportunities to be hospitable to unbelievers!
Food requirements: Frozen pizzas. Snacks. Drinks.

*Hospitality is not one-size-fits-all

Both our mom's hospitality (high, proper standard, plates, special napkins) – we are different. Paper plates. No serving dishes.

This also serves as a way to teach your kids. Having people from church over teaches children the importance of the body of Christ. It also gives them access to spiritual conversations.

B. Financial stewardship

Budgeting is a HUGE deal. So much *home* stress is *financial* stress. Strongly recommend budgeting. Resource: Dave Ramsey

Debt can be a big problem. Should not be surprised.

Proverbs 22:7b

...the borrower is a slave to the lender.

Eliminate debt as much as you can (mortgage, cars maybe)

Live *within* your means! Budgeting helps with that. [Handout]?

Be generous with your possessions and money

2 Cor. 9:6-8

The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.