

Center For Christian Living
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Unmasking the Heart in the Family

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Watch over your heart with all diligence for from it flows the spring of life

Proverb 4:23

Introduction

The family is in crisis and some of our homes are becoming toxic. In the bible the family is mentioned often, and the pages of scripture give many examples of family issues and tensions. The first family, that of Adam and Eve was disrupted by murder when Cain killed his brother. Adam had family problems when his wife Sari had continuing conflict with Hagar, a maidservant and her son, Ismael, whom Abraham had fathered, and the stories continue. Foolishness is measured by one's response to instruction and correction. The more one rejects instruction and correction the more he will remain foolish. The more one receives correction and follows instruction the wiser he will become

- I. A house that is not governed by the standards of God will suffer the consequences. (Proverbs 3:33)
 - a. Wicked is defined as one who is living immorally or walking in violation of biblical standards or whose lifestyle is inconsistent with God's Standards.
 - b. A curse is defined as a pronouncement or sentence of misfortune as a result of wickedness. It can result in being hemmed in with obstacles or being placed in a bind, or being powerless to change situations or circumstances because one is continuing to sin.
 - c. When the lifestyle of the family is inconsistent with God's Standards for the family they may experience
- II. The answer of no to prayer request (Proverbs 15:29).
 - a. Constantly stumbling into trouble without seeing the stumbling block (Proverbs 4:19).
 - b. Confusion and disorder manifesting in the home consistently because of the pursuit of selfish ambition in the home above seeking God's ambition for the home (James 3:13-16).
 - c. Being trapped or enslaved to sinful habits (Proverbs 5:21-22).
 - d. Negative consequences of unrepentant sin (Proverbs 10:24).

e. Insatiable desire for more of everything with a lack of contentment with what they have (Proverbs 13:25).

III. A house that is governed by the standards of God will reap the benefits. (Proverbs 3:33)

a. Righteous is defined as one who is walking in harmony (not perfection) with biblical standards or whose lifestyle is consistent (not perfect) with God's Standard.

B. Blessing is defined as a bestowal of good or benefits as a result of righteousness. It can result in having vitality, or productivity in various aspects of life, or longevity, or material benefits.

C. When the lifestyle of the family is consistent with God's Standards for the family they may experience:

1. The answer of yes to prayer requests (Proverbs 15:29).

2. The ability to see danger and run from it (Proverbs 22:3).

3. Harmony and peace in the home as a result of walking by the wisdom of God instead of the wisdom of the world (James 3:13-18).

4. The power to resist sin and walk in righteousness (Galatians 5:16-24).

5. Stability in hard times (Proverbs 10:25).

6. Confidence in the presence of God because they know they are living honorably before Him (Proverbs 28:1).

7. Contentment with what they have (Proverbs 13:25).

IV. We must develop and maintain a house governed by the standards of God by:

a. Learning, accepting, and submitting to God's standards for all aspects of life and family knowing we have been empowered by God's grace with the ability to do so (John 8:31-32, Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:12-13, 2 Peter 1:1-4).

b. Confessing and repenting of all known sin to God and to others we have sinned against (1 John 1:9, James 5:16, Proverbs 28:13, 2 Cor. 7:10-11).

c. Forgiving and loving others as we have been forgiven and loved by God (Ephesians 4:32, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 18:21-35, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8).