

## ENEMIES OF THE HOME

Text: Matthew 19:6; Malachi 2:16

INTRO: The home is an arrangement as old as the family of man—instituted by God in the garden of Eden, Gen. 2:24 & made for the benefit of mankind for (1) companionship [sexual & otherwise], Gen 2:18-20 and (2) procreation of the race, Gen. 1:28.

While it is true that both of these basic purposes can be accomplished to some extent outside the family relationship, such cannot be so without sin, 1 Cor. 7:2.

Several years ago I was invited to speak in a lectureship in Humble, Texas on the subject, “Enemies of the Home.” Some things have improved & others have deteriorated since that time. In that lesson I mentioned international communism. Communism as planned & promoted by Karl Marx was an openly avowed enemy of the home, but in our day, communism is in the process of self-destructing.

Another self avowed enemy of the home in 1978 was the women’s liberation movement. That movement had several effects, some good & some bad, on our society. Of course that movement isn’t completely dead, but its more extreme proponents, Gloria Steinam, Bella Abzug, Mary Jo Bane, and their ilk are not nearly as influential as they were in the 70’s.

Still a casual look at the world of today is sufficient to convince us that the home relationship as God intended it is under constant attack from many different angles.

### I. DANGERS IN OUR SOCIETY THAT THREATEN OUR HOMES.

A. Easy divorce. Most, if not all states, have no-fault divorce laws which allow the break-up of a home on the whims of those involved. Lawyers advertise in the classified sections of virtually every newspaper, “Divorce, \$65 & up.” You can bet that if a lawyer will do it for \$65, it’s very simple & easy.

B. This, combined with the fact that commitment has not been emphasized, has led divorce rates to soar as homes & lives crumble & are destroyed.

- C. Beverage alcohol & other forms of drug abuse.
  - 1. Spouse beating, child abuse.
  - 2. Sexual promiscuity.
  - 3. Children go hungry while parents squander resources on booze, gambling, etc.

Peter tells us that once a person has become a Christian, “he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. (1 Pet 4:2-3)

- D. Movies & TV programs which glamorize social drinking, adultery, sexual perversion & fornication in general. Such portrayals tend to gradually change our thinking and lower our standards.

## II. SHORTCOMINGS WITHIN OUR OWN FAMILIES THAT TEND TO JEOPARDIZE OUR HOMES.

- A. Ignorance of the true nature of marriage. Matt. 19:5-6
  - 1. Divine arrangement. What God has joined
  - 2. Supreme human relationship: leave f & m
  - 3. Two become ONE flesh, Mark 3:25  
Spiritually, financially, socially, etc.
  - 4. Enduring relationship: let not man sep.
- B. Marrying a person with a view to reforming him.  
1 Cor. 15:33 (evil companionships...)
- C. Selfishness. Eph 5:28, So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.
- D. Constant quarreling, etc. Prov 21:19, It is better to dwell in the wilderness than with a contentious & angry woman.

Col. 3:19, Husbands, love your wives & do not be bitter toward them.

- E. Neglect. In every relationship there is nothing more destructive than neglect.

Prov 24:30-34, I went by the field of the lazy man, & by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; & there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it & received instruction: A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; So shall your poverty come like a prowler, & your need like an armed man.

If neglected, your garden will self destruct. The fence will decay & fall. The most beautiful house ever built will crumble & fall in a matter of time as a result of being neglected. Friendships will gradually slip away & be lost forever because of sheer neglect. This is also true of the love that bonds a husband & wife together in the home. Flowers. Nice dining. Theater. Well groomed. Special meal, etc.

READ EPHESIANS 5:22-33.

**CONCLUSION:** Tho there are many dangers that threaten our homes from within & without, there is no problem too great for us & God to handle as we make a conscious & continual effort to submit ourselves to His instructions in this as in all other areas of our lives--& as we share with others the revelation of God as made known to us in the holy Scriptures.

Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, TX, October 4, 1978 (lectureship)  
Humble, TX, November 9, 1978 (lectureship)  
La Porte, TX, December 10, 1978  
Jonestown, TX, December 27, 1978  
Hutto, TX, October 9, 1979 (meeting)  
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, December 24, 1980  
Exton, PA, January 28, 1990  
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, February 23, 1997  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 6, 1998