

EAST CAMBRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

"A first century church in the 21st century"

Bible Reading Plan

Week 35

- Isaiah 23-25; *1 Cor 3*
- Isa 26-29; Ps 65; *1 Cor 4*
- Isa 30-32; *1 Cor 5*
- Isa 33-35; Ps 66; *1 Cor 6*
- 2 Chr 28; 2Kg 17; *1 Cor 7*

Leading Services

Announcements: Ron V.

Morning:

Song Leader: Tony Y.

Opening Prayer: Mike V.

Lord's Table: :Larry L.

Asst By:

Closing Prayer: Zack V.

Evening:

Song Leader: **Song Service**

Opening Prayer: Richard L.

Closing Prayer: Larry L.

Scripture Reading: Ben V.
(Zechariah 12.1-14)

Sermons

AM:

PM:



Home

God instituted the home, and it is to be a place of happiness (Genesis 2:18-25). Today, we find that many homes are falling apart and at an ever-alarming rate, and many are just not happy in their homes. The answer to these problems may be varied and seem very complicated. Still, we must understand that God intends for the home to be a place of happiness. As God designed the home, it is to be a loving, warm and caring place of safety. In our society today, can we have a happy home while the home and the marriage relationship are under full attack? There are some necessary ingredients for a home to be happy. Let us consider them.

God Must Be First in the Home

Since God instituted the home to be a place of happiness and harmony, then God must be in His place – first in the home. Many may think that the spouse or children or jobs should be given first place in the home. However, God is to be first in every aspect of our lives, and that includes the home. If our lives are to be happy, then they are to be what He wants them to be. The same is true in the home. A happy home is a place where God and His will are given first place in the home. Putting God first will help to solve many other problems that normally destroy the happiness of the home. If a home is to be happy, then God will be there.

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How to have a happy home

There Must Be Communication

The key to understanding and happiness is communication. When people are not happy, they will murmur and complain when communication is not what it should be. In the workplace, employee/ employer problems often are caused by a lack of communication. In the home, it is the same. We cannot assume that everyone knows what I am thinking. Many homes are destroyed because simple lines of communication are stopped. If we are to have a happy home, we must major in communication. Peter stressed this as he wrote, "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7). We must have communication in our homes if they are to be happy. There will be differences, but they can only be worked through with lines of communication that give understanding.

There Must Be Cooperation and Commitment

In the home, there is a place in the family for each one to fill. Husbands, wives, and children each have a place that God has given to them. If we are to have a happy home, the husband must assume the leadership in the home, but he must not rule as a master of slaves. He is to be the leader, and the family is to follow. The example of a shepherd comes to mind. The shepherd will not do things to scatter the sheep but to secure their safety and to lead them in the right path. A man considered to serve as an elder or shepherd of God's family exhibits this kind of leadership. This kind of leadership promotes happiness, as each understands their need to fulfill their role. In this kind of home, the wife will not sinfully seek to take the leadership away from her husband. Instead, the home will be united, working together as a team. This spirit of cooperation will promote happiness in the home. Cooperation like this begins as families commit to serving God in all things and not just in some areas. This kind of home will exhibit a true daily walk of service and commitment. When cooperation and commitment exist in a home, it will be a home where happiness resides.

There Must Be Love

Without love, a home will suffer the loss of the great happiness that could be enjoyed. Paul stressed the importance of love when he wrote, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Without love, our lives will be void of goodness and happiness. The characteristics of love that Paul lists are so important for the home to be happy. Notice Paul says that love is long-suffering, kind, is not envious, boastful, or proud. Love does not act in an unbecoming way, does not seek its own good, thinks evil, or is easily provoked. Instead, love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a). The harsh, bitter, faultfinding spirit and the spirit of a lack of trust that looks for the bad of the other will not be present when love is there. Love is the ingredient that will eliminate many problems and will cause our homes to be a permanent place of happiness as long as love resides in the home.

Yes, we can have a happy home when God is there and love is present. Love will allow our homes to be open, honest, and a place of trust. This will cause us to communicate and commit ourselves to the good and happiness of the home. These attitudes hinge on one's complete surrender of his life to the will of God. And what a joyous and happy home there will be when God reigns in the home.

- David A. Cox