

PART EIGHT

YOU AND YOUR HOME

The Christian home should be the happiest home in the world for several reasons. Both father and mother are of the same mind religiously. Statistics show this to be one of the five greatest factors in home harmony. This should be carefully considered before marriage (no Christian girl should marry a young man who cannot be the spiritual leader of a home) and both must be satisfied there is a mutual desire to serve God first of all. (Matt. 6:33) There should be the same effort to grow daily in the likeness of God, in wisdom found only in the scriptures, (2 Timothy 2:15) in self-control with relation to each other and the children, and in building characters which show Christ to others. A happy Christian home does not just happen, it is planned, sacrificed for, and carefully, prayerfully built; it takes time.

Time is regularly invested in church and prayer meeting attendance. Parents should plan to be sure the children are able to attend young people gatherings, and encourage their participation in such. The family's interests will show the world love for the Lord. To be driven about by worldly influence is not pleasing to God (Eph. 4:14; James 1:6). Be established in purpose, in doctrine, in faith, and in goals. Rev. 3:11. No so-called security the world has to offer can equal this sense of real and lasting security lived before children and ingrained in their own characters.

So long as there are homes to which men turn at close of day,
 So long as there are homes where children are, where women stay,
 If love, and loyalty, and faith are found across these sills,
 A stricken nation can recover from its gravest ills.

--By Grace Noell Cromwell

The right temperature at home is more surely maintained by the warm hearts and cool heads of those who live there than by electric thermostats.

Where can the world, seeking happiness, find a love that will embody all these beautiful attributes? Only in Jesus. He is love. Love such as this will bear its fruit in patience, kindness, unselfishness, courtesy, and in all the virtues that make for peace and happiness. Jesus in the heart of the homemaker will make all the difference. This love -- the love of Christ -- is the key to a happy home.

Mine, Lord, are but a woman's simple needs
 I ask not strength for great or mighty deeds;
 But just that which shall best enable me
 To serve my loved ones and to follow Thee.

Keep me today wise, patient, loving, kind;
 And little hurts, Lord, teach me not to mind.
 Into Thy strong hand let me slip my own,
 And for each fault, may love, dear Lord, atone.

-- Mrs. Ira Richardson

HOUSE OR HOME?

There is many a house that is not a home
 Tho the fabrics be grand and fair;
 There is many a cottage that is not a home
 With its walls full of strife and care.
 It is not the outward that makes a home,
 But the spirit that s dwelling there.

A real home may be just a pilgrim s tent
 Where an altar to God is found;
 Where His presence sheds its sweet content
 Of perfume and peace all around;
 Where hearts are knit with one intent
 That their lives should His praises sound.

A true home on earth, is a type here below
 Of the home in His house of love,
 Where the dearest ties human hearts can know
 Are the transcripts of ties above.
 A house is a home, the world around,
 With two lives united in life;
 Where simple trust and faith in God
 Grip the hearts of a man and his wife.

BEATITUDES FOR A HOUSEWIFE

Blessed is she whose daily tasks are a labor of love; for her willing hands and happy heart translate duty into privilege, and her labor becomes a service to God and all mankind.

Blessed in she who opens the door to welcome both stranger and well-love friend; for gracious hospitality is a test of brotherly love.

Blessed is she who mends stockings and toys and broken hearts; for her understanding is a balm to humanity.

Blessed is she who scours and scrubs; for well she knows that cleanliness is one expression of Godliness.

Blessed is she whom children love; for the love of a child is more to be valued than fortune or fame.

Blessed is she who sings at her work; for music lightens the heaviest load and brightens the dullest chore.

Blessed is she who dusts away doubt and fear and sweeps out the cobwebs of confusion; for her faith will triumph over all adversity.

Blessed is she who serves laughter and smiles with every meal; for her buoyancy of spirit is an aid to mental and physical digestion.

Blessed is she who preserves the sanctity of the Christian home; for hers is a sacred trust that crowns her with dignity.

Webster's Dictionary defines Beatitude as Felicity of the highest kind; blessedness.

The appearance of your home shows much to others. I have the following motto in my home. How much it contains.

The crown of the home is Godliness.
 The beauty of the home is Order.
 The glory of the home is Hospitality.
 The blessing of the home is Contentment.

It is good to have these mottos in our homes, but do we believe them, live them and put them into practice? Our houses must be clean and orderly, showing the effect of a diligent homemaker. Proverbs 14:1; 31:27; 18:9; Titus 2:5.

Our houses cannot be flawless always with healthy, normal children running through. But people can tell litter and dust of a day, from dirt that is two weeks old and untouched. People can tell the necessary clutter of the day's work from disordered piles of things not put away for days. Don't be always hunting for things that are never in their proper place. A house where no one puts away anything is a poor training place for children, a poor example to the community and a time waster. Believe me, there is no time to waste in an average Christian home. Whether we enjoy our housework or not, it largely is due to our mental attitude toward our job. Maybe the following article by Ruth Millett, taken from the newspaper, can help you with your attitude toward daily routine.

I once knew a young wife who got so much pleasure out of scrubbing, scouring, baking and ironing that I was prompted one day to comment on it.

After all, she wasn't a woman who couldn't do anything but keep house. She had written a novel in her spare time and had it accepted. She loved swimming and fishing and almost any other outdoor sport. She was never too busy to help her two young sons plant a garden, watch a pair of birds build a nest, or to share anything else they found exciting. So how come she loved cooking and keeping a house clean and all the other odd jobs most women label pure drudgery?

She told me that she grew up in a mining town. That her father was killed in a mine disaster when she was only a child, making it necessary for her mother to work long hours to make a bare living.

There wasn't much of a home and during the day there wasn't any mother in it.

Then and there she made up her mind that if she ever had a husband, a family and a home, it would be pure delight for her to be able to give them a happy home life.

"And so," she said, "I have always gotten a real thrill out of setting a room to rights, scrubbing a floor, baking a batch of cookies, putting a good meal on the table. It's wonderful to be able to give my children the kind of home my mother wasn't able to give me."

Now few homemakers ever stop to realize that the jobs they do day after day aren't just an endless stream of drudgery. With every bed they are actually giving their families happiness.

There is always a certain amount of routine work in every home. Washing, ironing, cooking, sewing, cleaning, shopping. Drudgery? No! Not unless you choose to make it so.

The following is the closing thought from *The Soul's Spring Cleaning* by Sam L. Foss.

"Plant flowers in the soul's front yard.
Set out new shade and blossom trees.
An' let the soul once frozen hard
Sprout crocuses of new ideas.
Yes, clean yer house, an' clean your shed,
An' clean yer barn in ev'ry part;
But brush the cobwebs from yer head
An' sweep the sno-banks from yer heart!"

Learn to enjoy your housework. Enjoy scrubbing and waxing a floor? Yes - see it shine! It will be so easy to keep clean afterward. Enjoy canning season? Oh, yes, I know it is genuinely hard work and long hours. But isn't it beautiful on the shelf? Won't it taste so very good? It is much more economical if you live in a place where you can go get the produce yourself. In the Portland area we have apples, pears, cherries, many different berries, beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, etc. growing in abundance. Fruit shelves full of all those goodies are a thing of beauty. Sometimes even fish from the rivers here can be added. Prov. 31:14.

Enjoy ironing? Yes, indeed! Take pride in your husband's shirts. In this day of "drip dries," ironing is a joke. Did you ever iron when collars had to be cold-starched? Keep the shirts white, all the buttons on, hung neatly. Enjoy patching the knees of boy's jeans? Even these rather slim legs? Yes, rip the side seams and it is easier. I learned to enjoy knee patches after a friend gave our Archie some like-new jeans that were out-grown.

Her son was a spastic confined to bed or chair. He could not play and wear out the knees. Archie also was given his out-grown tennis shoes. The "tread" on the bottom was perfect. The other boy could not run and play. Torn and worn clothes can look very good.

Enjoy washing dishes? Yes. Enjoy a clean cupboard full of shiny, well-arranged dishes.

THANKS

Thank the Lord for dirty dishes,
They have a tale to tell.
While others may go hungry
We're eating very well.

With home and health and happiness
I shouldn't want to fuss.
For by this stack of evidence
God's very good to us.

- Author Unknown

Enjoy washing dirty clothes? Did you ever hang clothes on the line when the breeze was blowing, and you could look up at the blue sky through the branches of a cherry tree in full bloom? Wash day to me was pleasant, too, even tho' there were eight to wash for.

Homemaking is the most diversified occupation in the world for a woman. She must be everything: an auditor, dress designer, interior decorator, caterer, baker, seamstress, psychologist, diplomat, practical nurse, social secretary, master mechanic, dietician, landscape artist, purchasing agent, judge, arbitrator, disciplinarian, home economics expert, and bookkeeper. How can anyone say just being a housewife is not an occupation, is not interesting, not challenging, and she has nothing to do, so she desires a "job!" No career in all the world can possibly equal the one God gave to woman - "the keeper of a home," "a help meet for a man," a Mother in its highest sense.

Did you ever see a house that was too clean? Most of us do not have that to fear, but there are some houses so immaculate, kept by women so fastidious that a guest is uncomfortable there. It is not a warm, welcoming place where children can enjoy living and others feel at ease. Most houses like this are not hospitable in the first place, just cold, spotless, sanitary.

The other extreme is even worse: dirty, smelly house, dirty mother, dirty children, dirty husband, dirty shoes, dirty hair, dirty clothes, dirty car, dirty yard. Let us be neither of these; be a sensible, clean, happy Christian homemaker and mother.

Even the walls of your home can speak for Christ. We can and should, enjoy beautiful art; the lovely things of nature, God's creation; mottoes or pictures with Bible themes - all these tastefully arranged, can be ours. Some object to pictures of Christ, but surely we can teach our children to appreciate such things without having the Catholic attitude toward them. But we must often remind children that Christ really is present always. There is influence in pictures. Remember the story of *The Great Stone Face* by N.Hawthorne? I know of two distinct examples I have seen, one the influence of boats on one boy, and nudity on another. Did you ever know an elderly couple who have lived together many years, who genuinely love each other and actually have grown to look alike? So should we daily study the word picture of Christ in the Scripture that we may look more like Him, and so show him to our family daily.

When the Kenneth Miles family became Christians, they placed Salman's Head of

Christ opposite their front door. It was the first thing seen as one entered. She told me of remarks the picture had caused - "Oh, so you people are Christians, too. "You don't believe everything in the Bible, do you?" "Is He [Christ] a friend of yours?" Yes, your very walls can testify for Christ.

MUSIC IN THE HOME

What kind of music is heard in your home? Surely a Christian home should be blest with the right kind. In this day of excellent records to be had, sacred, secular, and classical, our homes can be rich with only the best. Children, if they have any musical talent at all, can be taught to produce and appreciate the good. Music is an expression of the soul; it can lift up, relax, inspire, thrill, calm, excite, praise and glorify God, and influence all members in the home.

In this day of record players, and radios where good music may be had, often the children do not develop the talent they have within themselves. Schools do have an offering here, with band and orchestra training free, often even the instruments are furnished, Our children have played piano (all six), violin (two), base viol, sousaphone, bassoon, electric guitar, vibraharp, coronet, even the harmonica. Not all at once, but divide that among six children and over twenty years and it is not so bad as it sounds. It made home a place to learn, to respect others time to practice, to play together, to help one another, to develop harmony in sounds and dispositions.

There is much in the Bible about music. We know God himself must enjoy it for we shall have music in heaven. The Psalms are 150 outpourings of the heart in song, mostly by the great King David. Some are the glorious major key of joy, Psalms 149:1-4 and chapter 150; of praise, Psalm 81:1-4, 66:1-2, 92:1-4. Some are the minor key of sadness, suffering and sorrow, Psalm 69:1-4 and chapter 51.

LITERATURE IN THE HOME

Literature in your home is very important. Prov. 23:7, Matt. 12:3. Your body is what you eat. Your mind is what you read, see, and hear. The world sees literature in your home and judges you and your family. God sees your thoughts and knows. Get good books for children. They influence character and improve the use of time. A New York Preacher said, "The American People should be just as scrupulous about their mental Pablum as they are about the food they consume." Good books are wonderful friends. They can be clean, helpful, thrilling, teaching, entertaining, challenging, uplifting, beautiful, and educational. They shape the thinking of readers. There is little reading done these days. Reading needs quiet, respect of others, concentration, and thinking; it is not amusement only. The prefix "a" means *no*. To *muse* means to *think*. Amusement = entertainment with no thinking on the part of the recipient. One of the many things T.V. has robbed the children of is the joy and great good derived from reading.

Keep the Bible in places easily reached for frequent reading. Teach the children to respect the book itself as early as they can understand. The Bible should be in common everyday use in every Christian home. Every day - Acts 17:11, Isa. 58:2, Psalm 1:2. Use it in

counseling the children, Deut. 6:7; in admonishing, Psalm 119:9; in praising them, Prov. 10:1, 23:2a.

Do not allow literature in your home of such quality that the influence of the Bible is spoiled. Many so-called "comic" books are dangerous to children. The newsstands are full of degrading filth. Be wise enough to keep a close check on what your children have. Other children will sometimes give yours books or pictures that are unfit, so be on your guard. Would you wear cheap Woolworth "jewels" when real diamonds were offered to you? Then why choose otherwise for your mind? Why allow less for your children? Why dim the light God's Word kindles by clouding it with the trash of men? Our schools are not giving good, tested literature as they used to. The home must.

The stores are also full of good books that are fascinating to children, illustrated beautifully and made attractive. Furnish them enough that you know is good that they will not be tempted with the other. Yes, it takes time, but what in your home is more important than the thinking of your children? I quote from *The Little World of Home* by Wilfred and Frances Tyler, pages 84 and 85.

The child should have access to the finest literature ever produced. We recognize the influence of beautiful expression in well written books for children. Numerous lists are available, with "musts" for each age. What a tragedy to deprive children of these great character studies during early years! Certainly we want them to learn the worth of a good book. They should know early the joy of meeting great people - in books . . . but a child is sadly neglected who has no other stimulus for study than that given in the classroom.

We owe a debt of lasting gratitude to many noble teachers who have left marks of culture on numerous individual lives; but we need more like them, and more support in the homes of the children. All should advance as far in the formal schools as possible and then strive to increase mentally by a personal program of advancement in the university of life. . . .

The majority of the future generation will not find their greatest joy in their jobs. Their major satisfactions in life are going to have to be found in outside hours. Therefore in the little world of home let us stabilize them with some intellectual grace and skill that will enable them to have within their own minds a treasure chest of classical gems and practical truths that are contemporary with the needs of every generation . . . This element of grace, beauty, culture, and intellectual excellence is ever the same. It may change its garb from generation to generation, but at least it is ever the same refinement and noble heritage that is the proper right of every child.

REGULARITY IN THE HOME

Every day should be distinguished by at least one particular act of love! - Iaveter.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if that were a part of the regular routine of every person in every home? Have a flexible routine in your home. Someone may say, "A rut!" No, it is not; it is a time saver, money saver and wife saver. Our children often said "It is never monotonous at our house. The unexpected always happens." And in a large, busy family, a flexible routine is imperative that the home may be run smoothly and orderly.

I am quoting from *Abundant Living* by Reuel Lemmons, the chapter "The Virtue of Regularity" beginning on page 83 - 84.

The increased use of a thing will increase its usefulness. Even a pair of shoes, worn for a while, will feel more comfortable. God depends upon this law of regularity to govern the entire universe. Your physical life is controlled and even made possible by the same meticulous regularity. If you break the regularity of your sleeping habits, you get to where you cannot sleep. If you break the regularity of your eating habits, you will lose your appetite. Break the regularity of your daily routine and it destroys your ability to turn out work.

I have seen people who seemed not to be able to get anything done. One person may be able to turn out more work than the next half dozen. The one who can always turn out the work thinks there is nothing to it, and the others always wonder how he does it. He who makes a schedule of his day's work, and keeps it, will find himself able to do considerably more. Some businessmen work like a machine without a governor, but they never can get anything done, because there is no schedule, no routine, no regularity, in their lives. If God makes the whole universe depend for its very existence upon the regularity with which it operates, do not feel that you can make a success of your life and your work without some pattern, and some plan, and some schedule. You cannot do it.

The reason I say "flexible" routine is because many necessary things come into the day that must have attention, and because of these things, it is that much more necessary to have a plan to come back to without wasting time. In a Christian home we must always be in position to take advantage of the opportunity to teach a neighbor, or anyone who may come, the things of Christ. Sometimes we can do it as we work; sometimes not. Don't forget Mary and Martha, but do not dawdle away time in idle chitchat to the neglect of your home. Do not be such a slave to your "routine" that you have no time to play with, or read to, your children. At night have some definite ideas for the work of tomorrow. In the morning - pray God's blessing on the accomplishment.

The program that best suited my needs was very common:

Monday - wash	Thursday - optional
Tuesday - iron	Friday - wash
Wednesday-clean	Saturday a.m. - clean -- p.m. - bake

Of course you will have to clean some every day, and when babies are small, wash nearly every day; a hubby who likes baked goodies must be baked for more than once a week, (unless you have a freezer), etc. It is a good idea to make a list every morning (not too long so you cannot accomplish it all no matter how hard you work, nor too short for that has no challenge) of things you would like to do that day.

My heart goes out to girls from unhappy, disorganized, poorly kept, untidy homes of which they are ashamed. They have no pattern to follow, and poor training in their own lives to overcome. But they do not necessarily have to become poor homemakers, only if they choose to. They can, if they will, make their own homes different.

They talk about a woman's sphere,
As though it had a limit;
There's not a place in earth or heaven
There's not a task to mankind given
There's not a blessing or a woe,
There's not a whisper, yes, or no,
There's not a life, or death, or birth,
That has a feather's weight of worth
Without a woman in it.

Regularity of meals is a prime requisite for healthy, growing children and healthy, contented husbands.

"Christ is the Head of this house.
The unseen Guest at every meal.
The silent Listener to every Conversation."

Put this motto to work each day. Make Christ the Abiding Guest in the home. For a guest you put on your best manners, let others be first at the table, are soft spoken, hold your temper, and do not offend. Entertain Jesus daily. There are homes where families live so "casually" that each one eats when and where and what he pleases. The sink is always full of dirty dishes, and meals are never really prepared. T.V. dinners on a T.V. table in front of a T.V., eaten from the aluminum dishes they were bought on, with a bottle of Coke to wash it down, is altogether too "casual" to build bodies, minds, souls or families.

Well planned and well cooked meals, served hot on the table for the whole family to enjoy together, after thanking God for the food and for one another, is a family tie. It is a family tradition - meals together. It is a place to teach children common manners, which are really just a means of pleasing others - meals together. It is a very pleasant way to enjoy family conversation - meals together. It is a wonderful way to enjoy the ones we love best of all - meals together.

Little World of Home, page 88:

"If there is one word that is universally significant of love, peace, refinement, social

amenity, friendship, pure society, and joy, it is the table. Such power has the heart to clothe the most unseemly things with its own vines and fragrant flowers that we have not only forgotten that eating is an animal act, but we have come to associate everything that is sweet and beautiful with it. We no longer think of appetite, but of love. It is not food, but society, we have. We cover the merest animal necessities with such sympathies, tasks, conversations and gaieties that the table, the symbol of appetite, has cleared itself of grossness and stands in the language of the world as the center of social joy. A feast becomes sacred to hospitality. A festival is a religious observance."

It is not necessary to eat expensively to eat balanced, healthful meals. Simple food is better. Many healthy specimens were reared on scorn bread and beans. Poorer children are often more robust than those from well-to-do families, better able to cater to each ones specially-liked foods. There is a difference between cooking wholesome food the family likes and pleasing them, AND pampering finicky children. Take pride in good wholesome meals, well cooked, a pleased family, on a careful budget. Plan meals ahead. Know in the morning as near as you can the menus for the day. It saves last minute scrambles, saves last-minute finding you have not enough of this or that. Get the dishes done - quickly, as soon after eating as possible. Don't do everything else first and let them set and dry and get hard to wash.

There is the other extreme; do not refuse to call at a certain time with preacher hubby because you must do the dishes, even tho' that is the only time he can make the call. Do not make your hubby late because you must do the dishes. Be reasonable - use good judgment - have a flexible routine.

Illness and many other things make regularity impossible at times, but just try to follow a schedule and see how much smoother the days go. Important: The Lord's work must come first always.

POTS AND PANS

Lord of all pots and pans and things, Since I've no time to be A saint, by doing lovely things, Or watching late with Thee, Or dreaming by the fireside, Or storming heaven's gates, Make me a saint by getting meals, And washing up the plates.	(What is more "lovely" than a well kept home and children?) (You must pray) (It alone cannot make you a saint)
--	---

Although I must have Martha's hands,
I have a Mary mind;
And when I black the boots and shoes,
Thy sandals, Lord, I find;
I think of how they trod the earth,
What time I scrub the floor,
Accept this meditation, Lord,

I haven't time for more.

(We must take time to be holy)

Warm all the kitchen with Thy love,
 And light it with Thy peace.
 Forgive me all my worrying,
 And make all grumbling cease.
 Thou, who didst love to give men food,
 In room, or by the sea,
 Accept this service that I do,
 I do it unto Thee,

A GOOD GARDEN FOR A HOMEMAKER:

First plant five rows of peas:

Preparedness, promptness, perseverance, politeness, and prayer.

Next to them plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip, squash criticism, squash indifference.

Then five rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful, let us be unselfish, let us be loyal, let us love one another, let us be truthful.

No garden is complete without turnips:

Turn up for church, turn up with a smile, turn up with a new idea, turn up with real determination.

What kind of a spirit predominates in your home? There should be a spirit of cooperation. If so, that is good; it makes toward a quiet, happy home, free from quarreling, fussing, arguing, boisterous talk. It is conducive to your husband's best work on the job, and yours at home. All differences between the husband and the wife should be settled in private and each cooperating with the other over these differences, praying for needed harmony, and willing to sacrifice for each other. Patience with each other and the children is very necessary. When Bible admonitions to both husband and wife are carefully observed, cooperation is easy. He is to love her more than himself, and she is to be subject to him and honor him.

The Orientals used to (still do in many places) choose the life companions for their children. The marriages were lasting. There was never a thought of not staying married - that would be a disgrace - each worked to cooperate and make the marriage last. Why should we desire less? Surely the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9) in our lives will fill our homes with loving cooperation for which our children will be forever grateful.

There should not be a spirit of materialism in our homes, for that is wrecking many homes today. Never judge a Christian home by worldly standards. 2 Cor. 4:18 plainly tells the difference. The world has a different measure for the value of things; luxuries; amusements; recreation; money, its use and value; appearances; etc.; than Christians have. The striving after the best and the latest, "keeping up with the Joneses" till the lives and

souls of the family are secondary is certainly sinful in the eyes of the Lord. Surely our homes should be as attractive and tasteful as we can afford, for the good of our children and to present an acceptable appearance to people who see it, but the things that are not seen" are the eternal ones.

Just for fun let us "furnish" and "arrange" a home from the Bible. First, how should we adorn our homes? I Peter 3:4 tells us. A furnishing often neglected is found in 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Two appliances we do not find often enough in homes are given in Psa. 90:12 and Prov. 23:12. Too often the world sees the Rose of Sharon and the Lilly of the Valley we have "planted" about the Christian home only as Isa. 53:2 describes Him. The Christian himself should be a tree as described in Psa. 1:3, both beautiful and useful. Then people can see the fruit of our lives and prove the truth of Psa. 34:8. All people enjoy an attractive "view" from their windows. Let us Christians be able always to see as David did in Psa. 121:1-2.

How do we mothers personally adorn our homes? Listen to some words from *The Little World of Home*, page 81:

". . . be like the one who was called Morning-glory by her husband because she always looked so lovely at breakfast. . . .

"Your expression is the most important thing you wear . . .

". . . marriage is not a party dress. You wear it morning, noon and night. . . .

"It is almost proverbial that a woman's greatest sphere is atmosphere."

Isn't it true we have the most to do to establish the atmosphere of the home of anyone in it? But here is a sharp warning that our physical appearance is definitely not all we need to watch:

"Alas! A person with only physical beauty is fit for nothing but to sit for his portrait."

There are some ways we can definitely strive to make our home atmosphere more pleasing. **First of all our own mental attitude is important.** Janet Serrac, an authority on charm, has said, "Think deep, big thoughts and merry, little thoughts." Selfishness and pettiness over trivialities can deprive us and our homes of much happiness and the blessings God has offered. Do not stagnate mentally into the swamp of monotony. Invest a few minutes a day to help and encourage a neighbor or to read something that will stretch your own mind beyond the daily "funnies." Be diligent to answer intelligently your children's questions. If you do not know, look up the answers. Let us grow up and expand our minds with our children as we aid their growth.

Take time to live; while waiting for a holiday, the capacity to enjoy it wanes.

Take time to think; it is both a source of power and a gyrocompass.

Take time to play; it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read; it is the cheapest shortcut to priceless knowledge.
Take time for friendliness; it can be the source of precious happiness.
Take time to dream; every worthy dream adds a feather to your spirit's wings.
Take time to be holy; for without holiness, no man shall see God. Rom. 12:14

The spirit of hospitality should be seen in every Christian home. Learn to make people feel at ease in your home. Welcome them graciously. Remember I Pet. 4:9 and Phil. 2:14, with great grace, not grudging or murmuring. 1 Tim. 3:2 lists hospitality as a "must" for the elder, and we are to follow their example. Rom. 12:13 gives hospitality as one of the many things that make up our "reasonable or spiritual service" in verse one. Although II Cor. 9:7 is in context related to the giving of money, surely it applies to the giving of our homes in hospitality also. Our children know how willingly, cheerfully and gladly we welcome guests. If we grumble after they are gone, children will remember how hypocritical we have been. Nor will the Lord reward us for such giving.

On page 88 of *The Little World of Home* we read:

And now for guests - those to whom we fling wide our doors in anticipation and hospitality. "Jesus met each man and each moment as if the whole of eternity were in it." What an attitude! A new person is always a great event - or he was to Emerson. "Bringing to one's home people of genuine quality helps immensely to dignify the home in the eyes of those living in it." Guests not only teach and inspire by their presence but often aid in the training and developing of grace in the children . . . The guest book, with the autographs of friends and agreeable persons, becomes a treasure within a few years.

Contentment is a blessed thing. It is the expression of a heart condition. In our day of much striving for many "things" it seems this Christian grace is often forgotten, even by many church members. Yet the Scripture considers contentment as important. It is very valuable. I Tim. 6:6-8 couples contentment with godliness and calls the two "great gain." Do you? Have you ever thought that godliness is mentioned first because maybe that is a requirement of real content? Paul, in verse eight, tells Timothy that having the necessities of life, we should have contentment within. Jesus deals with this same problem in Matthew 6, beginning with verse 19, but look at verses 33 and 34. If we seek God's kingdom and his righteousness (godliness) first then we have freedom from worry (contentment) over the necessities, for God will bless our efforts to supply for our families for the "Father knoweth that we have need. Couple faith with your works.

In Luke 3:14 Jesus commanded contentment of even the Roman soldiers -- how much more of us. Paul had learned to be content in Phil. 4:11. He has set us a wonderful example. If he could learn such a lesson in spite of persecution and trials, and in the face of want, surely we can learn it when we have so many of God's blessings. Paul writes in Heb. 13:5 to encourage the Hebrew Christians of his day to be content.

Even the Old Testament in Prov. 15:16 tells that a little with the Lord is better than great treasure and the trouble it so often brings.

A discontented Mother will spread the atmosphere of discontent to all in the home; if you would be happy in a happy home, learn to be content. By that I do not mean to never desire to better both yourself and your surroundings. Self satisfaction is dangerous. It is the end of growth and accomplishment. But while you are achieving something better as your ability grows - be content - be happy - be thankful.

Punctuality is a good and right thing. God is never late. His creation is punctual to a second. Calendars can be figured accurately a hundred years in advance, for all heavenly bodies move in exact time and position - what if the sun should be late sometimes? What if it moved off course even ten degrees? God and all things he controls are exact. Christ was always on time. Gal. 4:4.

Being late is a despicable, unnecessary habit. Make it a rule of your life to be on time for school, for business appointments, social engagements, all church services, even family gatherings and meals. Of course there are the exceptionable times when you cannot be prompt because of unavoidable circumstances, but let it not be your own fault. Ever go out of the door with the family all ready for church and number two falls into the mud on the way to the car? Or, just as you shut the door, locked, the phone inside rings? Or, the children are all dressed and you pick up the baby in snow suit to leave only to notice the unmistakable odor, and on investigation you find baby must have a complete change of clothes from the shirt out? Yes, there are necessary tardinesses, but see that they are necessary. Promptness of many families at regular church services encourages promptness of the others. It may be popular for the man to wait while the lady "primps." But it is inconsiderate of others time. I do not mean we ladies are to look untidy, ill-groomed, hastily thrown-together, just start a little earlier. Remember Prov. 31:30.

Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time for that is the stuff life is made of." This is an old adage worth remembering. The Bible says much the same in Eph. 5:15-16, Col. 4:5, and James 4:14.

Along the same line (time) let us be Christ-like in the use of our time as homemakers. John 9:4. This attitude will help us to be a wise, good neighbor; to be interested and thoughtful in time of need and sickness. Matt. 22:39. Yet be not a waster of neighbors time. Read Prov. 25:17.

SUBJECTION

In this day of political, economic and social equality of men and women, our women seem not to understand the plan of God given first in Genesis, evidenced through the Patriarchal Dispensation, repeated in the Mosaic Dispensation, and plainly stated again for us in the Christian Dispensation. I refer to God's order of authority in the home. No institution, whether set up by God or man, can operate efficiently without delegated authority. From the neighborhood grocery store on the corner to the *Standard Oil Company* there is order of authority - there must be a head. The home, the most important institution (next to the church) is no exception; therefore God left the plan for it.

God not only created the earth and all life upon it, but He called it all "very good." Gen. 1:31. His crowning creation was man and woman. They, of all his creation, could be a companion to Him, and He came to walk and talk with them "in the cool of the day," Gen. 8:8a. Because of their sin, God pronounced a penalty on each. In Gen. 3:16 He is speaking to Woman and very plainly puts her second in authority. 1 Tim. 2:12-14 puts the same teaching into the Christian Dispensation and tells the reason why. She had proved herself too susceptible to deceit and sin. 1 Pet. 3:5-6 binds the "second place" on us today and gives O.T. examples to show God's favor on women of old who were obedient to this order.

Not only is it God's requirement of us today, but God makes it a beautiful, blessed thing. Read Eph. 5:22-33. Here Paul, in showing the precious relationship between Christ and His Bride, the church, uses the most beautiful relationship we know here on earth - that between a man and his wife when that relationship is lived according to God's pattern. That pattern is reverent submission of wife to husband in love, and, sacrificial love and devotion of husband to wife. Don't say it is outmoded! It is just as workable, wonderful, satisfying, and God-given today as when Isaac loved Rebecca and took her to his home; and so great was that love, that he no longer mourned his mother's death. Gen. 24:67.

Does "submission" mean "slavery?" Oh, no. Loving, respectful, reverent submission means rather elevation. There is no scripture telling a man to "put" his wife in subjection; but when she follows God's requirement of submitting herself, then God requires man to love her enough to die for her, Eph. 5:25. Could woman be elevated any higher than that? Go back to 1 Peter again, verse 7 - Sarah's attitude of submission to Abraham brought from him honor to her, and great mourning at her death, Gen. 23:1-2. Again in Col. 3:18 we find the same command of submission given to women, but it is followed in verse 19 by the same command of "loving" given to the man.

I Cor. 11:3 gives the complete order of authority. It is God, Christ, man, woman. Christ lived his place perfectly, Heb. 5:8-9 records it. When man is in complete submission to Christ, and woman to man, then can our lives be happiest and most blessed by God.

However, ladies, just because the husband is not a Christian you must still be obedient to God. I Pet. 3:1,2 gives you the hope that your husband may be won by your Christian behavior. Only your responsibility to God should interfere. Acts 5:29 governed the apostles then and Christians now. But - be very wise, loving and kind in the exercise of this rule, never bold, rebellious or domineering. Remember your Christian life should win your unbelieving husband to the Lord, not drive him further away. Hodges says, "No superior, whether master, parent, husband or magistrate, can make it obligatory on us either to do what God forbids, or not to do what God commands. So long as our allegiance to God is preserved, and obedience to man is made part of our obedience to him, we retain our liberty and integrity."

I Cor. 11:8-9 gives us still another evidence of man's right to authority over woman by virtue of his first in creation; woman was created *for* him and *from* him. She is part of him - made of a part near to his heart. Paul says in verse 7b that she is the "glory of man," but verse 7a man is "the image and glory of God. Gattaker has said, "A masterly wife is as

much despised and derided for taking rule over her husband as he is for yielding to it."

I quote from *Me and My House* by Mrs. T.C. Clark, page 29

It is indeed a wise woman who recognizes and appreciates the rewards to be found in obeying God's command. We might list a few of these as an aid in helping you to be more appreciative.

(1) It is a woman's nature to feel a greater security if she is under loving authority.
 (2) The happiest homes of all are those where the father is the recognized head.
 (3) It has been pointed out time and again in social studies that children stand a much better chance of being happy and well-adjusted if they are reared in homes where the father is the head of the family. (4) Authority carries with it grave responsibilities. Thus, a woman's responsibilities are lighter if she lets authority rest in its rightful place. (5) "A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised" (Prov. 31:30).

References - *Me and My House* by Mrs. T.C. Clark, pg. 26
The Christian Home by N.V. Williams, chapter 3.

FINANCES IN THE HOME

This is one of the five major causes of divorce in the American home; therefore we must consider it a very important subject in this study. We read in Prov. 3:9, "Honor the Lord with thy substance," and I wonder if that is not the beginning place for the trouble. Very few homes take the Lord as a partner in their business ventures, or in just the use of the husband's pay check (the wife's also in this day), giving the Lord His just share first. Mrs. Frances Zuill of the *University of Iowa* has called finances in the home "Homemaker or -breaker Number One."

The pay check a man brings home represents the amount of his life, energy, health and blood that he contracted to sell to his employer. The father in Luke 15:12 divided his living between his two sons - his living was his money. The wealth of a home cannot be measured truly by the amount of money made. Many things enter in: how it is made, benefits from its use, pleasure gained to the whole family, and many other aspects.

Have a definite understanding about the making and use of money before marriage if possible; even then there will be many adjustments to make afterwards. The wife should know what his income is to be, and if she is to work, also. There is the probability of a baby coming and so put an end to her income. Both should share the same attitude toward the use of money - savings, installment buying [make the number few], charge accounts [beware!], insurance, rent or buy housing, the necessity of absolute honesty toward all creditors. Rom. 8:13 gives sound advice. Our economy makes buying of a house or car on monthly payments almost a necessity, but even those should not be beyond your means.

Be perfectly honest with each other, and work together to keep finances straight, and all angles of income and outgo well known to both at all times. No secrets (unless pleasant

surprises for special occasions, which is discussed later). The wife should be responsible for household expenses and not be ashamed to show how she has handled her responsibility. The husband should be final authority on major spending and investment; however both should be given some voice and opinion in all, where it is desired. A Christian couple should always consider it *our* home, *our* income, *our* indebtedness, *our* honor to be upheld, *our* credit standing to be protected. *Budget* together, *save* together, *spend* together, *invest* together. Give the Lord His tithe first or all, include the offerings which are your gifts to Him, then ask His blessing on that which is yours to use. Remember Psa. 24:1. All belongs to Him. Pray that you may be good stewards for Him and He will bless you.

Above all do not let yourselves have the wrong attitude toward money. 1 Tim. 6:10 plainly tells us that "the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." In Matt. 6:19 Christ tells us what a poor "treasure" money is and James 5:1-3 shows the end of these riches. In *The Little World of Home* by Wilfred and Frances Tyler, on page 51 is written ". . . the total income is to be used over a period of years for the greatest good of the family, including parents and children," and I would add "and the Lord's Kingdom.

I would advise a budget for each home; one that the husband and wife make out together and strive both together to make it work. You say "Show us how." Because there are about as many budgets as there are circumstances and homes, it would be pretty hard for me to give you an accurate pattern, but there are books and patterns of various budgets to be had. Here is a suggested list of items, but filling in the figures must be governed by your income, and family size, and the place where you live. In some localities basic expenses for a small family may be greater than the same basics for a large family in another locality - but as a rule incomes vary in much the same proportion as the expenses.

Necessities:

Tithe and Offerings

Housing (rent or buy)

Utilities (Electricity, phone, fuel, etc.)

Food

Clothing

Automobile (payments, upkeep)

Medical and Dental

Insurance (Life, car, health & accident -- group insurance carried by employers is wonderful.) Savings

Taxes (property or income)

Extras:

Payments on appliances, etc. (Remember good used appliances can save much on original costs and all on carrying charges. We bought a used refrigerator 16 years ago at less than half its original price. It has never been repaired and is still apparently "good as new.")

Books & Magazines (Beware the magazine salesman at your door. Make up your minds which magazines will be most beneficial to you both, that you can afford, and have time to read, and let that be the end. Choose some especially for children. Reading

materials are mind developers, either for good or bad.)
Music lessons (Not a necessity, but what a blessing to the child with some ability! Music may be a means of income for the child when grown, but will always be a source of enjoyment for the whole life of a music lover. Children who grow up under the influence of good music are not so easily influenced toward "trash" of the modern day. Musical talent, vocal or instrumental, is always usable for the church.)
Vacation (It may be short, it may cost but little, but try to have that "little" ready and planned for, so the vacation will be a pleasure, not a burden. Children can be encouraged to save of their "little" toward a vacation. It is much more fun to have their own to spend.)

Keep an account of expenditures, especially when first starting a home. That will give you more accurate figures from which to make your budget amounts. No one can give you accurate figures for your home. And the written expenditures will show you at once where the unnecessary "leaks" in the purse are, also.

Keep before you the necessary outgo of each month. Things paid less often, like insurance of different kinds, taxes, vacation, doctor, or dentist, all have to be included in the "monthly" list setting aside a portion for each, or when the statements come there will be nothing with which to cover them. An accurate account of all monies is almost imperative in order to figure income tax in these days. And figure it you must. A checking account furnishes permanent receipts, but balance the checks every month as soon as the bank statement comes. Handle business in a businesslike way, paying by checks tends to hinder unnecessary spending of cash in your pocket.

In *How to be a Preacher's Wife and Like It*, by Lora Lee Parrott, page 71, begins a good usable chapter "Money Matters," which is well worth your time to read. I give to you a list of "Eight ways to stretch your pay check" - these are the topics only; however she discusses each briefly.

1. Do not buy everything you think you need.
2. Buy quality merchandise.
3. Watch for sales.
4. Pay cash.
5. Consider the possibility of used goods.
6. Keep things in good repair.
7. Go easy on luxuries.
8. Don't worry about the Joneses'.

The last paragraph in that chapter reads:

"The most important consideration is not the amount of income, but the attitude of the family. Studies show stability of income to be more important than amount. If a family has the right perspective toward the small amount of happiness which money brings, then they may more fully give themselves to the real sources of family enjoyment. Will Durant, the historian and philosopher, once talked with my husband and me about our vocational plans.

When he learned that we were entering into the ministry, he said, 'Your income will never be like that of other professional people, but don't let that be a matter of concern. I give my wife \$1000 per month to operate our home, but we have no more happiness than we did many years ago when we lived an entire year and bought everything on a salary of \$1200. It is not the amount of the income, but rather your attitude toward it.'

THE FAMILY ALTAR

The Christian Home, page 118 reads:

"Maltbie Babcock has challenged: 'Dare we let children grow up with no vital contact with the Savior, never intentionally and consciously put into His arms? Not to bring them to Him, not to teach them to walk toward anyone, is wronging a child beyond words. The terrible indictment uttered by the Lord - 'Them that were entering in ye hindered,' and the millstone warning for offending little ones, are close akin to the deserts of them who ruin a man's whole day of life by wronging his morning hours. Not to help a child to know the saving power of Christ is to hold back a man from salvation.'

"Read and ponder Mark 9:36, 37. Children must be taught. Start early. Let God's Word fall upon their minds and hearts from the earliest day. Trust the Holy Spirit to root it there by His wisdom, even though the child himself has as yet no thinking powers to hold it. The rod will not be needed so much as some might fear if faithful, daily instruction of the young from the earliest days is attended to! Only divine wisdom can give the fear and knowledge of God (Prov. 2:5), a principle of practical godliness (Prov. 2:7-9), a preservation from besetting temptations (Prov. 2:10-19), and guidance into the right and safe path (Prov. 2:20)."

What is meant by the "Family Altar? It is the family worshipping together. That worship is based on a study of God's Word. It may include the explanation of passage studies, application to daily lives, answering questions, memorizing scripture, quoting from memory, singing, and always prayer.

This training should begin with very young children, younger than many parents realize is necessary. I quote from *The Christian Home* again, pages 120 - 121.

The truth of the matter is this: a child may be impressed long before he has the power to express. He has the power to receive impressions long before he has the power of thinking and understanding. From the moment of birth he is a little bundle of life that is receiving impressions through the eye-gate, ear-gate, and heart-gate; what he hears, sees, and feels is stored up in his heart; and as he begins to think his expressions will draw up and out of his impressions. His impressions provide the mold into which his thoughts and interests will be cast. . . .

"We pour God's Word into our babies for the same reason the builder brings his tools

and materials to the site of a building project: so that they will be there when he is ready to begin work. . . .

"The greatest tragedy in Christendom and to the cause of Christ is the utter waste of the first four golden years of opportunity. The child in the tender, plastic, impressionable state he is in from one day to four years is the golden opportunity for every parent to lay the Word of God deep in his life as a firm foundation for all else that shall follow. Be a missionary of this wonderful truth to young married couples and those contemplating marriage."

Just how lacking our America is in this day by day training of children is best expressed by J. Edgar Hoover:

"Can a nation exist void of all religious thought and action? Can we have internal peace without morality? Can we build homes without God, or have worthy parents who do not know and practice His teachings?

"The key to these problems - to life itself - is God. He is man's first need, his final goal.

"Our nation is sadly in need of a rebirth of the simple life - a return to the days when God was part of each household, when families arose in the morning with a prayer on their lips, and ended the day by gathering together to place themselves in His care.

"If there is hope for the future of America; if there is to be peace and happiness in our homes, then we as a nation must return to God and to the practice of daily family prayer.

Our generation, it seems, has allowed old, faithful religious practices to slip into oblivion. As a result, family life has been weakened. The nation has suffered, and many of its children have become like the man whose house is built upon sand; it is an inviting ground for moral decay and crime.

"My hope for the future of this nation is predicated upon the faith in God which is nurtured in the family. No outside influence of a constructive nature can overcome the lack of a guiding light in the home, and the spark of this light must be the knowledge of God; the fuel must be the strength of prayer.

"The greatest thing we as individuals can do for ourselves and for our country will be to keep our families together in peace and happiness. There is no better way of doing our part for home-life in America than by establishing the daily practice of family prayer in our homes; because families that pray together stay together."

The scripture is very plain on this matter of training children early to love God's Word and be governed by it.

Deut. 6:7 - This tells the diligence with which the Jews taught their children.

Prov. 22:6- Train the child to be assured of a faithful man.

Eph. 6:4 - Christians are to "nurture children" in the things of the Lord.

1 Tim. 3:4 - No man can be an elder in the church without properly trained children.

2 Tim. 1:5- Timothy's godliness began with his grandmother and he was taught it

as a child. 1 Cor. 4:17; Phil. 2:19-20 - He was dependable and faithful above all others as a man.

In our day of staggered working hours for men, and changing "shifts," the time best suited for the family worship hour must be different in different homes. It may take careful planning in order to reserve time for this precious gathering of the family, but it is so important it must be done. Here is another reason I question the wisdom of mothers working; she should be available at the time best suited to Father's time for worship, no matter when that may be. Do not put this worship as a family off until "the children are a little older, the younger the better. For as they grow older more and more functions clamor for the time of each member of the family - the school, the church, even jobs. By the time any of the children are old enough to be working at a regular job he should be so well trained at the family altar that he automatically will carry on his own private worship; because it is a necessary part of his daily life, even if working hours separate him from the family gathering.

In a divided home, where the father is not a Christian, the responsibility of family worship falls to the mother. Again let us refer to Timothy. The unusual faith he had came through his mother and grandmother. Timothy's father was a Greek. This is not the ideal way, but sometimes the only possible way. I have known several women who have been careful to have the children ready for school early enough in the morning for prayer and Bible study before they leave. It is a fortification well built between the children and the many temptations of worldliness and evil in the public school. The sense of God's nearness, the feeling of His all-seeing eye watching, and His all-hearing ear listening is a protection as sure as the armor described in Ephesians the sixth chapter.

David has given us a picture in the First Psalm of a happy (blessed) person. Would you rear your children to be happy? Then follow David's pattern in verse two and teach your children to "delight in the law of the Lord ; help them to "meditate" on this law day and night by the use of the Family Altar.

Children often say things about homes that should make us be very careful. One little boy who had been visiting Mrs. Jonas said to his mother later, "I like to be in her home. It is such a soft home." What did he mean? Could it have been Mrs. Jonas' soft way of speaking? The quiet and peacefulness he saw there? The loving way the family treated one another? Could the little fellow say that of your home?

A school teacher said speaking to a little new boy whose parents she knew were house hunting, "Don't you have a home, yet?" His answer was, "Yes, but we don't have a place to put it." That family evidently carried "the home" with them wherever they were.

Hands build houses,
Houses are visible.
Houses destroyed by fire.
Houses destroyed by flood,
Houses destroyed by earthquake.

Hearts build homes.

Homes are invisible - of the Spirit.

Storms and trials only build home stronger,

Only one thing can destroy the home. That is the death of love! Food of home (not meat, vegetables, dessert)

But love, sacrifice, cheerfulness, unselfishness.

Light of home (not beautiful lamps with fluorescent tubes) but love shining in dear eyes. Love burning in loyal hearts.

Home - A place of sacred intimacies, of little heroism unknown to the world and of suffering nobly borne."

Finale:

1. When Jesus Ministry was completed.
2. When sending out the men with the Gospel.
3. When trials were to be fierce, him on the cross, them persecuted.
4. When doubts were certain to come.
5. When the cost of discipleship was great.

Then: He called the apostles aside and pointed them to the tenderest spot in a man's life. Home. A promised happy home. John 14:1-6. A true preparation for That Home is the surest preparation for a happy home here!