

Biblical Uses of the Home



Part 2 of 2

Introduction

- 2,000 instances in the ESV Bible of the words “dwell,” “house,” “home,” “tent,” and “family.”
- LAST WEEK - Homes are a place for:
 - Building Godly Foundations
 - Extending Family Into the World
 - Cleanliness and Security
 - Cooking and Eating
 - Practicing Hospitality
- THIS WEEK: Evangelism, Mercy, Worship, Instruction, Industry



6. Homes are a place for: Industry

2Kings 4:2ff Elisha said... "What have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels... Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels..."

Prov. 31:16-27 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard... her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle... 24 She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant... She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Acts 9:39 ...all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made...

Acts 18:3 Paul... stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.

1Tim. 5:10 ...well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. But refuse the ...idle and also gossips and busybodies...



7. Homes are a place for: Instruction (1 of 2)

Genesis 18:19 For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD...

Deut. 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.... **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.... (Repeated in **11:19-20!**)

2Kings 6:1-2 Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "See, the place where we dwell under your charge is too small..."

Prov. 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Mark 3:20a Then He went home, and the crowd gathered again...

Mark 7:17 And when He had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable...

Mark 9:28 And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ...

Mark 9:33 And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ...



7. Homes are a place for: Instruction (2 of 2)

Mark 10:10 And in the house His disciples asked again about this matter.

Matt. 13:36 Then He... went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

Matt. 17:25 And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first...

1Cor. 14:35 If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home...

2Tim. 1:5 ...faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice... **3:14** continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it **15** and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings...

2 John 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting...

“[T]he Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer – these I understand not so well as I should, though I study them daily, praying with my son John and my daughter Magalen.” ~Martin Luther



8. Homes are a place for: Worship

Deut. 8:12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them... **14** then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of... the house of slavery...

Exodus 12:4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take... the lamb... **7** put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it...

Lev. 16:6 Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house.

Psa. 119:54 Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourn.

Exodus 35:3 Kindle no fire in all your dwelling places on the Sabbath day.

Lev. 23:3 It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings... (cf. v.21 & 31)

Joshua 24:15 ...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

1 Cor. 16:19 ...Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house.

"The ordinary duties comprehended under the exercise of piety which should be in families... are these: First, Prayer and praises. Next, Reading of the scriptures, with catechising in a plain way..."

~*Westminster Directory for Family Worship*, 1647 A.D.



9. Homes are a place for: Mercy

Luke 8:51 And when he came to the house, He allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter, John and James and the father and mother of the child.

Mat 8:6 "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly."

Mat.8:14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. (No hospitals in 4,000 years of Biblical history!)

Recent Home Health Care trend charted by Naisbitt in *Megatrends*:

1970 = \$500M, 1981 = \$2,500M, 1990 = \$10,000M, 1999 = \$42,000M

Prov. 31:20 She opens her hand to the poor, & reaches out... to the needy."

Isa. 58:7 Isn't [the fast I desire] to split your bread for the hungry, and bring home the poor vagabonds? ..."

1Tim 5:9-10 Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than 60, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality... cared for the afflicted...

"An approach which makes the family a center of care and service... will usually improve the quality of the service.... [and the significance of] the woman's domestic role..." ~Stephen Clark, *Man and Woman in Christ*

- Start with the little opportunities God gives you!



10. Homes are a place for: Evangelism (1 of 2)

“How people come to Christ forms a specific ‘DNA’...When a person’s introduction to Christ happens in the context of a friendship, over... time, with exposure to the basic habits of Bible reading and prayer and... community of believers, then it sets a DNA of direction, steadiness, wholeness, growth...” ~Henry Reyenga, *Home-Discipleship Christianity*

1Kings 10:4-5 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD... she said... “Blessed be the LORD...”

Mark 5:19 And [Jesus] did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you..." (cf. **Lk. 8:39**)

Mark 8:26 And He sent him [the blind man at Bethsaida] to his home...

Matt. 9:6b ...He said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your bed and go home."

Luke 5:29 And Levi made Him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them.

Luke 19:5 "Zacchaeus... come down, for I must stay at your house today."



10. Homes are a place for: Evangelism (2 of 2)

Luke 9:4-9 And whatever house you enter, stay there... Say, 'Peace be to this house!' ...eat & drink what they provide... Heal the sick in it, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is near to you.' (cf. **Mar 6:10; Mat 10:12-14**)

Acts 5:42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Acts 10:22 "Cornelius... was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to heed what you have to say." [The H.S. fell on all the listeners in the house, and Peter baptised C's relatives and friends!]

Acts 16:31-34 And they said [to the jailer], "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And... he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

Acts 18:7-8 ...he went to the house of... Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.



CONCLUSION

Church buildings are not unBiblical, but, for now, let's expand our vision for the potential of what we've currently got in our own homes!

Each of us is building a house. Build it with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to give it a firm foundation. He will dwell with us when we do this.

Look for the expansion of our house to embrace children, parents, employees, and others.

Vigilantly defend the purity of our homes.

Eat meals and live in our homes and create a culture in our homes that reflects the nature of God.

Use our homes as ministry centers where

hospitality is offered,

the sick are cared for,

the poor are provided for,

homeless & lonely find family ("He sets the lonely in homes" Ps. 68:6),

the Gospel is proclaimed, and above all, God is worshiped.

- What vision do you have for how God could use your home as a center for ministry?
- What further equipping of your home needs to be done in order to fulfill that vision?

