

Seeing Christ in the Home

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That Christ may settle down and be at home in your hearts by faith. ~Ephesians 3:17a

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:9-13; 16

Introduction

Definition of "Home": "to be among one's own people"; "a place of habitation or residence"

- Speaker's experience in various homes

Christ makes His home in our hearts through the Holy Spirit:

- At salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells believers and is the seal of their eternal life in Christ (John 10:28-29).

A Variety of Homes

1. A Family Home

A Message to Teenagers: You may be just beginning to understand the Lord and His love for you. Honor your parents and be thankful. This is a special time in your relationship with the Lord and your parents. **Read Psalms 1:1-2; Proverbs 16:9; 9:10; Ephesians 6:1.**

A Message to Mom: Don't compare your children or parenting with others. It takes a lot of prayer (and unconditional love) during these years. Build your relationship with the Lord and your children. **Read Proverbs 15:1; 25:11.**

2. A Newlyweds' Home or a Married Couple without Children

A Message to Wives: There will be an adjustment after the honeymoon period is over. Don't become prideful or envious of other wives and compare your life with theirs. It's not wise. Seek the Lord and learn how to love your husband. **Read Proverbs 14:1; 12:25; Titus 2:4.**

3. A Single Woman's Home

A Message to Single Women or Widows: Start by building your relationship with the Lord. Pray about where He might use you. Spend time with women who are wise in the Lord. **Read Proverbs 8:11-12; 10:13a; Titus 2:3 & 5.**

4. A Divorced Woman with Children at Home

A Message to Mom: It's a tough job to do alone but with the Lord, nothing is impossible. Faith is simply believing in what you can't see and trusting God—believing He will work it out. **Read Luke 1:37; Romans 8: 31; Jeremiah 32:27; 1 Corinthians 10:13.**

5. A Grandchild (or Grandchildren) in the Grandparents' Home

A Message to Grandma: This is a trying situation but a privileged one. You have a unique opportunity to share Jesus Christ with your grandchildren as you share His love with them. **Read 2 Corinthians 2:14.**

6. A Home with a Special Needs Child

A Message to Mom: Grace may surprise you with God's presence in the details of your daily routine. God's grace, even in the small things of life, is never small grace. You have a personal investment in your child's life. And so, trust the One who has a personal investment in you. He proved His love for you at Calvary. In the shadow of the Cross—the greatest display of victory over disability and weakness—God reaches out to you and your child in love. He cares about you. He cares about your child. **Read Matthew 18:10; John 1:16; 2 Corinthians 1:8b-10; Ephesians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 5:6-7.**

7. An Empty Nest Home

A Message to Wives: When children leave "the nest," it can be a lonely time. You may even feel you've lost your purpose, but your children will never stop needing you, even if it's just your love, support, or advice. **Read Romans 15:5; I Thessalonians 5:11.**

8. An Elderly Parent (or Parents) Living in the Children's Home

A Message to the Parent(s): Thank the Lord for all His blessings and remember: no child is perfect, not even your adult child. And no parent is perfect either. You are in their home, and they need to be comfortable making mistakes, knowing you are not judging them. **Read 2 Timothy 1:5.**

A Message to the Children: Demonstrate God's patience and love to your parent(s) or in-law(s). There will be trying days dealing with their health, infirmities, and disposition. Living in your home, however, honors your father and mother . . . the first commandment with promise of blessing for you and them. **Read Romans 15:5-6; Ephesians 6:2-3.**

9. An Assisted Living or Long-Term Healthcare Home

A Message to Women: You may feel forgotten and lonely, but there is always prayer and love to give those around you. Everyone feels the same way as you do, so Christ's love can be shared with many. The Lord Jesus will comfort you and then you can comfort others with His comfort. What a wonderful opportunity to be a prayer warrior and testimony for Jesus Christ! **Read Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 16:14; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.**

10. A Church Home

A Message to Believers: We are all sinners saved by grace—the only Person who draws us together is Jesus Christ. We are a family of faith in our great God and Savior. We are saved by grace and called to walk in grace. Grace is messy: we are a mess, and the local church is full of imperfect believers. May we extend grace, forgiveness, and hospitality to each other.

We have been called to be "good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Use your home to reach out to others—saved and unsaved. Your kitchen table can be a great place to share the Gospel or encourage believers in the Lord. **Read Colossians 3:16; I Peter 2:5; 1 Peter 4:9-11.**

11. Our Heavenly Home

A Message to Believers: We have a heavenly home, "a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens." The Lord Jesus is preparing a place for you. He knows what you like, what you love, and what makes you happy. He desires for you to feel "at home" in His Father's house, even better than you know. Our heavenly home will be beyond our imagination and will surpass earth's beauty and most magnificent scenery. **Read John 14:1-2; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 21 & 22.**

Conclusion

How do we see Christ in our home?

- Abide in Christ (John 15:5).
- We are never alone; God's presence is always with us—His peace and joy (John 14:27).
- By faith, we take God's Word and put our trust in it, seeking to know Him more. **Read Ephesians 3:16-17a.**