

Marriage - Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Background of the Navigators.

B. Background of the speaker.

II. The importance of the home.

A. It should be a private citadel - a retreat.

1. This is the heart of everything that should affect your whole life.

2. One can stand all sorts of pressures from the outside with a good home. But when there are troubles in the home, the more difficult they are to handle. The closer the problem is to you, the more it weighs on you.

B. The majority of Christian homes do not really know what it means to have a happy home.

C. Psychology and Counseling can calm the fire down, but only Christ can put the fire out. Christ is the answer.

1. The home is something that requires work. It can die from neglect.

2. Satan contends against the home. (Isaiah 45:29)

III. To be a really happy home, it has to be Christ centered.

A. We are incomplete without the spiritual aspect of life. (Luke 2:52)

B. Love is essentially a thing of the spirit.

C. Love means giving over of self. We cannot get victory over self on our own.

D. Pride is essentially competition. Christ delivers from this.

IV. To be a really happy home, it must be based upon reality - not a dream.

A. A dreamer quickly becomes self-justified.

B. A recognition of reality allows for mercy - a Christian admits that he is a sinner.

C. Real fellowship is based upon reality and not pretense. Our acceptance is based upon the person of Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:7)

Application questions

1. What does the Christ-centered home look like? How is it that Christian home can live only under the pretense of being such?

2. Why is recognition of reality so important to maintaining a happy home? What specific reality is important to recognize about ourselves?

3. What challenges do you face in the home? How might you respond different in light of the principles discussed by the speaker?
