

*Some times in preaching mothers day sermon
I speak of un-natural mothers - I read of an*
FATHERS HELPING TO HOLD THE HOME *un-natural*
TOGETHER....DEUT. 6:6-7 *father - brought
whiskey & cigars for
his son.*

We have come again to Father's Day. It is always a good season for the merchants for they can sell most all of the ties and handkerchiefs left over from the winter.

Fathers are having a good deal of competition these days. A man took his stand waiting for cab one morning and there stood a person with new overalls on and a nice work cap. A girl with a beautiful head of hair was standing a few yards away. The man remarked to the person near him that such a pretty girl should not be dressed as a boy. The person replied, "That's my granddaughter and it's her business." Oh, said the gentleman, "I beg your pardon I did not know that you were her grandfather" "I am not" replied the person "I am her grand-mother" So you see fathers are having some competition, especially in looks.

* Our subject is, FATHERS HELPING TO HOLD THE HOME TOGETHER. We may help organize clubs and many sorts of organizations and work hard to keep up the membership and hold them together. We may look after our savings and hold them in good security for our posterity but if we do not hold our homes together we have failed in the greatest enterprise of our lives.

Edgar Hughes
Katman

* The president of one of the great colleges of New England said, "A large majority of the boys that got in trouble at our college were from broken homes." We often quote that the sweetest words in the English language are mother, home, and heaven. It is a tragedy that so many boys and girls do not know the sweetness of either of these words. What a calamity that so many can not sing "There is no place like home."

We have heard that the mother is the queen of the home and that the home is the mans castle and that the father is the head of the home. So we might say to dads, wherever you are and hearing this service, that we have a connection there in that home that belongs to no one else; that we may shift our responsibilities to some one else, for the home is the soil in which the personality first takes root and from which it draws its nourishment. The home is the ground on which the whole structure is reared.

THERE ARE VARIOUS THINGS THAT HOLD HOMES TOGETHER:

1. Economic needs..Out in a Western state a county clerk opened a letter from an ex-service man, who stated that he had married that he might get a larger allotment under the G-I-Bill but now eligibility for benefits was running out and said, "We would naturally like to abolish our marriage." Let us hope that few marriages start with that goal in view for in such there is nothing more than economic needs holding them together.

2. Some homes are held together by loneliness. That might seem strange but it is a fact. Of solitary souls thus united John Masefield wrote those stinging words in Dead Ned as follows: "I KNEW THAT TWO LONELY SOULS, HOWEVER UNLIKE, HOWEVER CERTAIN TO MAKE EACH OTHER WRETCHED, WILL DRAW TO EACH OTHER FROM THE LONELINESS OF THE SOUL. IF YOU ARE WALKING THE BITTER NIGHTMARE IT IS ANY COMPANION FOR GOD'S SAKE." And then from that springs a family. What kind of a family can you expect from a marriage that has as its only foundation "Some one is better than no one."

3. Some other homes are held together by public opinion. They would break up in a minute were it not for the scandal it would cause. >-H-U-2

There are other forces of this kind that hold homes together. But you have already concluded in your minds that these are not the best cords with which to tie them together

Homes, of course, were meant to serve economic needs and homes would be strange places if they did not heal loneliness and strive to keep up appearances before the public. But these cords alone will likely let it drop on the rocks sooner or later.

So fathers let's seek out something stronger than any of the above with which to help hold the home together..

1. Familiarize ourselves with the Bible. We can do this by reading it. I imagine that we might embarrass lots of people high up in the church if we were to ask them publicly if they read a little of the Bible every day. Some of us might be about as far behind in our knowledge of the Bible

as the man I once read about. He went with his wife to to prayer meeting one night. The preacher had a map on the black board showing the distance from Dan to Beersheba. We often hear that expression you know. When they got home he said to his wife, "Dear I learned something to night for I had always thought that Dan and Bersheba were man and wife." "Oh darling" said the wife, "Surely you are joking about that." "No I am not joking for I really thought they were man and wife just like Sodom and Gomorrah."

2. But the real thing that holds the home together is LOVE. Not the love of the true story magazine, nor that of the conventional motion pictures. But a love something like what Florence Marly wrote. "It is easy to make twenty men fall in love with you in one year. That is nothing but to have one lover for twenty years...that is achievement."

That is the kind of love that holds the home together. That is the kind that Major Hans and Gertrude Horns-bostel had as they stood in the flower brightened room in the isolation ward of the San Francisco and where the Major knew that his wife had contracted Leprosy. He was a veteran of two wars and of the Bataan Death March. He did not have leprosy himself but entered with his wife into the Leprosarium so that he and his wife might end their life on earth together.

The love that really holds the home together is not dependant on physical attractiveness, financial security, or mutuality of opinion. But it is love which is patient and kind. Wherever you find homes that are holding together you will find a home where the love is patient, considerate, and kind.

Rufus Jones has told of a Blacksmith who was short of stature and thereby humble in mind. He fell in love with the tallest and fairest girl in town but kept it from her for years. One day she came to his shop for him fix something for her. She was so appreciative that he proposed and she accepted right there on the spot. He jumped up on that anvil and kissed her. Then he asked her to take a walk with him and she did. Then he asked her if he might kiss her again and she refused and said, "Not here in public."

"Well then if there is not going to be any more kissing I am going to carry this anvil any further." There are lots of anvils to be carried about the home and if we are just carrying them for the pleasure we will get from carrying them—ware for some day they will have to be laid down. You will get to point you can not carry them

It is the dedication of the home to ends beyond the home that holds it together. We must share with each other and let that sharing extend to every field of need.

"I was helping her cry"

After all it is the love of God that holds the home together. Having that in our hearts we have the consciousness of a presence at every meal, in every conversation, every act, and every yearning.

A family kept this motto in their dining room, "God is our unseen guest at this meal" The father passed away but as the mother and two children would gather around the table they would feel a presence. Who knows but that the father's spirit came back with the everpresent unseen guest?

As a Little Child

One day as my five year old daughter and I crossed a busy street, she held my hand as usual. As we reached the center of the street, she said: "I am walking with my eyes shut."

I said: "You should never do that, because you might get run over."

Still holding my hand, stepping confidently, eyes still closed, she replied: "Not when I am with you, Daddy."

As Christians we must place our hands in the hand of our Father and walk in faith, and then need have no fear of the dangers of this life.

—C. N. Tunnell
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