

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about ¾ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, tannerst.com to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

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Consider: **1John 1:7** **Needed News**

Joyce Venable, Dolline Fain and **Conrad Harris** continue to deal with their respective health issues. **Dolline** fell this past week, hitting her head and injuring her arm.

Ricky Ragsdale had a fall while on a cruise. His condition was not improving and he was to fly to Fort Smith and be taken to the emergency room Saturday for further care.

John Jackson's Mom, **Nettie**, fell last Monday. A CT scan showed no broken bones

Adelaide Laubach has been suffering with an ear infection this past week.

There are numerous things for which we need to approach our Creator in prayer. Certainly asking for His care for those who are injured, sick, or hurting would be among them. We also must remember our duty to pray that our leaders would follow Godly principles so that we might lead a quiet life of serving God. Just when we think all may be lost, we must remember we are "strangers and pilgrims" and keep following the path that will lead us HOME to our Father and Maker. Never underestimate the power of prayer from the righteous.

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

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Home, For The Grown-Ups

Robert F. Turner

God made man, and woman. That is just about as basic as a study can get. And the next most basic step is, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:21-25). Jesus adds, "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6). The home is the most basic element in society.

We do not refer to mere biological procreation. Artificial insemination, state supervised harems, or temporary relationships may suffice for this. But in a home former ties and individual aspirations are second in importance to the preservation of this permanent unit. Its roles of trainer, protector and stabilizer far outweigh that of procreator. Women Libers, socialized governments and current morals may minimize its importance, but revelation and historical evidence cry out against their error.

The "first division" of the Ten Commandments has to do with God. He is ONE, SPIRIT, HOLY, and the God of DELIVERANCE. But the "second division" has to do with man, and begins with the fifth command: "Honor thy father and thy mother..." The sixth command protects LIFE, and the seventh protects the sanctity of the HOME: Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Ex. 20:1). Further reference to the inviolable nature of the home is found in the last command: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, wife, etc." Paul pictures Christ's love for His people in terms of the home, not as a "party" loyalty (Eph. 5:23-f); for we are the "family" of God (3:14-f). Reader's Digest (Mar. 78, p.111) quotes Michael Novak, Harper's Magazine, as saying, "The family is the critical center of social force. It is a seedbed of economic skills and attitudes toward work. It is a stronger agency of educational success than the

school and a stronger teacher of the religious imagination than the church. Political and social planning in a wise social order begins with the axiom: What strengthens the family strengthens society."

What Novak calls "religious imagination" I would call "faith;" but I would have to agree that the role of the home is greater in this field than is "the church" — for I assume he refers to collective activity, in a "church building," under institutional guidance. Many people, including many brethren, have never learned that God's family (the "church") also acts distributively, as saints function in domestic, economic and civic affairs. It is absurd to think that Bible classes and an hour or so of formal "worship" can have a greater influence upon society than can a truly "Christian" home.

And I'm going to say this if it cancels half our readers. By "Christian home" I do NOT refer to one that simply transfers formal worship or "class" activities from the church building into "daily devotionals," puts "God Is Love" on the wall, and formally expresses "thanks" for the food. These worthwhile endeavors may even have an adverse effect upon our children unless they are coupled with a genuine atmosphere of fairness, understanding, love and faith in God.

Realistic And Honest Facts Of Life

The fundamental concept of "home" is expressed in the oft-neglected words of Jesus: "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother..." He, and the woman, must "leave" their former domestic units to form a new one. This necessitates growing up, accepting responsibilities, being no longer dependent upon dad and mother. Our age has encouraged a "child forever" attitude, where each individual is to "do his thing," freely flit about in pursuit of individual satisfaction; and then, when things go wrong, run home to mother (or her substitute, socialized government) to cry about our "rights" being violated. "Johnny hit me," continues, as we blame others for what might never have happened if we had matured.

But it is also necessary that we "cleave" to our partner, becoming one. This takes the maturing process much further. The solitary

individual of unmarried adulthood is superseded by one who no longer thinks of himself alone, but of "us;" not of "mine" but of "our" happiness and well-being. A child, in process of preservation and establishing identity, can't do this. Nor can a "child" of 20, 30, or 50 years. That is why some "people say of marriage that it is boring, when what they mean is that it terrifies them.... that it is deadening, when what they mean is that it drives us beyond adolescent fantasies and romantic dreams." (Novak; *ibid.*) Successful marriages, and homes, are for those capable of "leaving" and "cleaving" in order to form a new unit.

God's word teaches the proper relation of husband and wife, of parent and child, of youth and aged (Eph. 5: 22-f., Titus 2:1-f, etc.) so when the church in its collective function upholds the Bible it encourages God approved homes. But a lack of understanding, or faith, in the spiritual and eternal goals of the church has perverted its emphasis. Many congregations have diverted their treasury and energy to social and domestic activities, adopting "home" functions. This has not improved the home, but offers a substitute for it. Homes do not spring from local church programs. It is the other way around. Firmly established and successful local churches are most likely to come from homes that are firmly planted upon divine principles. Lacking this, neither church nor nation can endure.

There is nothing more realistic, no more honest facing of facts, than an open recognition of the place of marriage and the home. The so-called "liberated" individuals of our day close their eyes to man's basic nature, civilized history, and cries of pain from our current tortured society. There are none more "intellectually dishonest" than those who follow their child-like fantasies of self-indulgence. This is not "enlightenment" but willful ignorance of the long demonstrated facts of life.

The home is not Utopia, nor is it "found," floating on dream clouds. A good home is earned, with labor and self-sacrifice. In the process we learn that the striving is also beautiful; that giving is the truest form of getting. And in a good home, attained, we find more romance than we ever dreamed possible.