

He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Store In My Heart Colossians 3:1

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Paul's letter to the brethren in the area around Colossae speaks of the superiority of Christ. These brethren were beset by those who encouraged tradition and philosophy and the observance of holy days and feasts. This focus on earthly things would pull them away from the freedom they had in Christ.

Paul urges them to focus instead on the things above. To keep their eyes and hearts on Christ by leaving these earthly things behind, along with the sinful attitudes that had ruled them in the past. In obedient baptism they had died to the world and needed now to live in Christ, following His teaching and example not the traditions and desires of men. We need to follow these instructions in our own lives today.



"Home" Of What Is It Composed?

Jerry Henderson

In our present society, the home (family) is not thought of, by many, in the way God originally intended it to be. Today many people do not even consider the marriage relationship between a man and a woman to be necessary in the formation of a home or "family unit" as we are using the term in this series of articles. Today, women who are not even contemplating marriage decide they want to have a child, thereby forming what they call a "home" or "family". Having a husband as God intended is the furthest thought from their mind. They simply go to a doctor who specializes in a procedure called artificial insemination. Male sperm is then selected from a sperm bank, and the woman allows the doctor to perform a surgical procedure to impregnate her without the benefit of the union between male and female as God designed. Also, you may have some man who decides he wants a child, but doesn't want to be married, so he simply finds a woman who is willing to bear him a child. When the child is born, the woman then gives the child to the man and they may never even see one another again, much less think about becoming husband and wife. Or, in our "modern" society, you may have two males or two females ("gays" they call themselves, but let's call them what they are, homosexuals) who "make a commitment" to each other, which in some countries and even in some states of the United States of America is recognized as a kind of marriage, then adopt children and call themselves a family. These simply illustrate the many efforts of mankind to deviate (this makes them "deviates", doesn't it?) from God's plan for the home.

Let me hasten to say, I do not believe it to be wrong for a husband and wife (as the Scriptures defines them) who are unable to conceive or have difficulty conceiving and bearing children to adopt children. You will find in Scripture where children were cared for by "parents" other than their natural parents. Such was the case with

Lot who was cared for by Abraham, his uncle, after Lot's father died (**Genesis 12:5**). And, yes, I know that a single parent can raise their children. It may be that either husband or wife is taken through death or a spouse becomes unfaithful to the marriage bond and the innocent spouse Scripturally divorces the unfaithful mate and raises the children alone. However, for a man and woman who are Scripturally married to adopt a child or a single parent forced by death or any circumstances beyond their control, to rear their children is far different from the situations described above. In the above-described situations, individuals are involved in ungodly relationships that are specifically condemned in Scripture (**Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-28**) and therefore cannot be a home as God intended it to be.

You will remember in **Genesis 1:27-28** the Bible says: *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."* It is not difficult to understand from these verses that God intended that **ONE** man and **ONE** woman be joined together as one flesh, that is, married to each other and this for life. It is out of this union of husband and wife, as they are referred to in **Genesis 3:16-17**, that children are produced. So, it becomes abundantly clear that God intended that the home (family) be composed of **ONE** man (**male**) and **ONE** woman (**female**) and the children that result from this union. This is the basic components of the home as God designed it and when man deviates from this basic unit that God designed in the beginning, all kinds of problems arise. Yes, as noted above there are some exceptions that are sanctioned by Scripture. But, we must remember that these are exceptions rather than the rule. However, the ungodly and unscriptural relationships that modern man (actually they are not of modern invention at all) has devised is a corruption of the home (family) as God designed it and have resulted in an exceedingly corrupt society. In the above discussion, I used the term "Scriptural marriage" and in our next installment of this series I want to discuss with you what constitutes a "Scriptural marriage". (This is number 3 in a series of 12 articles on the home. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

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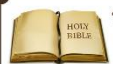
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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Cyndi Berryhill's great granddaughter, Taylor, was born at 29 weeks and is still in the hospital. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

Shannon Soliday has a follow-up appointment in a few weeks.

JoBeth Henderson has her third immunotherapy treatment October 27.

Jack & Deberah Brooks are still dealing with some sinus issues.

John LaValla has some allergy tests upcoming.

Leta Rivera's new address is on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Tommy Robinson's graveside service will be Friday at 1pm. Keep **Bill Venable** and the family in your prayers.

Sunday @ 5 - **Jeremiah 7:27** Wednesday @ 7 - **Luke 4:23**