The Impact of Godly Homes upon the Church
1 Pet. 3:1-7

Introduction:
A. Family life affects our spiritual life (vv. 1, 2, 7).
B. Let’s look at three features of homes that positively impact the church the most.

Discussion:
I. Spiritually United Homes
A. Best accomplished by two Christians marrying and sharing same spiritual values.
   1. Both partners available for spiritual support in times of difficulty.
   2. Both parents available to properly train children (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 31:1; 2 Tim. 3:15).
B. Spiritually united homes settle some very important questions that impact the church:
   1. Shall the children attend church? If so, where?
   2. Shall the children be loyal to the wishes of which parent?
   3. How shall we use our money? Spending? Giving?
   4. How shall we use our time? On the lake? At services?
C. Spiritually divided homes cannot always be avoided, not should be (cf. Lk. 12:51-52).
   1. A partner obeys the gospel after the marriage.
   2. Parents or children obey the gospel – work to convert others.
   3. Should be handled in fear of God.
      a. Marriage should not be broken (1 Cor. 7:10-16).
      b. Christian should use wisdom to convert others (1 Pet. 3:1, 2)

II. Spiritually Responsible Homes
A. Where there is spiritual leadership – by teaching and example.
   1. Teach the word which produces faith (2 Tim. 1:5; Rom. 10:17).
   2. Demonstrate proper priorities (1 Pet. 3:1-5; Matt. 6:33).
   3. Training children in spiritual values (Eph. 6:4).
B. Where there are opportunities for spiritual development.
   1. Opportunities for worship and spiritual work at home.
   2. Encourage Bible class homework as much as school homework.
C. Where spiritual goals are emphasized even more than career goals.
   1. Young men begin early to qualify for church leadership.
   2. Young women begin early to qualify to be a wife of a leader.

III. Spiritually Differentiating Homes
A. Homes that differentiate between the church and the home.
   1. Social activities is the responsibility of the home not the church (1 Cor. 11:22, 34).
   2. Recreational activities is responsibility of the home not the church.
      a. Recreation is needed at times (cf. Mark 6:31)
      b. Recreation director is not a function set in the church (cf. Eph. 4:12).
   3. General child development and education responsibility of the home not church (cf. Eph. 6:4)
B. Homes that differentiate between popularity and propriety.
   1. In the way they adorn themselves.
   2. In the way they conduct themselves.

Conclusion:
A. Spiritually strong homes translate into spiritually strong congregations.
B. Spiritually strong individuals contribute to spiritually strong homes and churches.
C. Spiritually strong individuals start with obedience to the gospel and being added to church.