

No Place Like Home (Part 1)

“So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

Luke 15:20 NIV

“...Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...” (Psalm 127:1). Have you ever wondered what a house built by God would look like? What qualities or traits would be present in a household or family unit that is built upon God’s word and filled with His Spirit? These are great questions to consider if you are striving to have a godly family in an ungodly world. If you desire is to have a home that is “built by the Lord”, I believe a great example to look at and learn from is the home presented in Luke 15:11-32.

Most of us know this parable as the story of the Prodigal Son. However, if we look a little closer, we can discover some key characteristics that will be present when the Lord builds your house.

1. **Liberty** (Luke 15:11-12) – Although the father didn’t have to, he accepted his son’s request. In a family, it is normal and expected by parents that their children will fall into line with the demands and expectations of the parents. However, as the children get older and become more independent, the parents must accept that, as adults, we are free to make choices that determine the course of our lives. Even though we may make choices He does not agree with, God still gives us the freedom to choose. In a home built by the Lord, there is a certain level of liberty and acceptance that is given that allows each member the freedom to choose even if it is a choice to leave and live how they choose.
2. **Provision** (Luke 15:16-17) – Are the members of your household getting what they need in your home? I am not referring to the physical things like food and clothing. Are your spouse and children being provided with the emotional and spiritual support they need to assure them that they are loved and appreciated...that they matter? When we provide for the physical, mental and spiritual needs of our home, we are exemplifying the Spirit of God and what He has done and continues to do for us...love. The prodigal son remembered that everything he needed could be found in his father’s house. Can the members of your household say this about your home?
3. **Compassion** (Luke 15:20) – God is full of compassion but what about your household? Is your home a place where the members of your family can find mercy, help or comfort during their time of affliction and trouble or do they encounter judgment and blame? One of the ways that God demonstrates His compassion is that He never gives us what we deserve but He always gives us what we need. Make sure you and the members of your household know how to show compassion to each other rather than condemnation. Treat others as you would have them treat you.

(To be continued...)