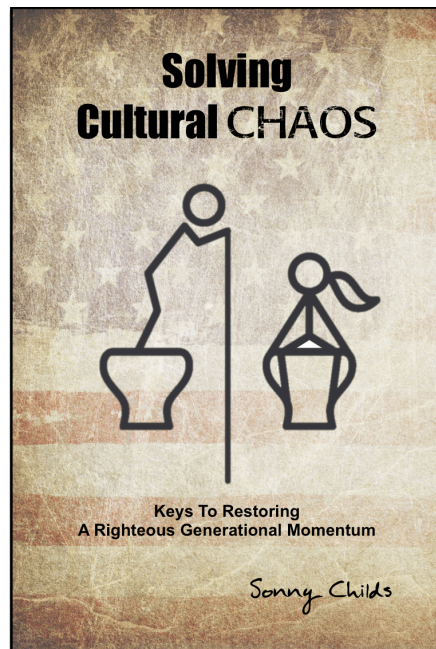


Solving Cultural Chaos

*Keys to Restoring
a Righteous Generational Momentum*

By Sonny Childs



Copyright 2016 Sonny Childs

Bible quotations are taken from the New International Version
unless otherwise indicated.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system,
or transmitted in any form or by any means –
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise –
without the prior written permission of the publisher.
The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

Published by Sonny Childs
P.O. Box 682
Paragould, AR 72451

Contents

Caution

How did we get here?

What can we do?

Who will lead?

Supplement

Homemaker, A Holy Terror!

Introduction

Solving Cultural Chaos

"The Obama administration has sent a letter to every public school district in the country telling them to allow transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that match their chosen gender identity, as opposed to their birth certificate." FoxNews.com, May 13, 2016

CAUTION

The following material is not what you think. While it will most certainly make bold challenges to all that is politically correct, it will also call into question much of that which is conservatively sacred.

It should be noted that excerpts from this material have been published before. At that time, I lost friends and financial support for this ministry. The solutions are just too inconvenient for most of us to accept.

In order to bring solutions to a culture in chaos, radical discipline and change must occur. Frankly, I have serious doubts that the conservative community is up to the challenge. Even though the need for this material has been fully validated by our continued tailspin into the open abyss of chaos, most of us will find the challenge too difficult. Apathy and wishful thinking will overrule.

We like to throw stones at the liberal left and we like to assume that all of our social ills can be blamed on them. We sleep well at night, assuming that they are the problem and we are the victims. Unfortunately, like the self-righteous Pharisee of Luke 18:11, we have mastered the technique of shifting the blame to others in order that our own guilt is not exposed and our need for change is not addressed.

For those who are brave enough to read on, it is time for judgment to begin at the house of the Lord.

The following material is straight to the point. ***Conclusion - we did this to ourselves.***

We created the homosexual, bisexual and transgender problem. Over the last several generations, our willingness to allow the breakdown of God's assigned roles within the home has led us to this place. Our apathy toward God's sacred design for the family is the reason we now have a generation that is totally confused about who they are and what they are intended to become.

In order to solve the cultural chaos that we have created, three questions must be addressed:

1. How did we get here?
2. What can we do?
3. Who will lead?

Part 1

How did we get here?

1941

To rescue a world at war, great men were drawn from their homes and onto the battlefield. Great women were drawn away from their families and into the workforce in order to support the war effort. These men and women have been called "The Greatest Generation." In many respects, they were!

When World War II was finally over, many of those men never returned home. Those that did found it hard to pick up where they had left off. Many women were forced to remain in the workforce in order to support their family. They too found it nearly impossible to go back.

Over time, the enormous cost of their absence has become apparent. Men who had been hardened by war, found it difficult to bond with their sons. The father/son validation that is so necessary for young men to pass into manhood was often left undone. The media and other cultural outlets glorified the strong, silent type. The family suffered.

Women, toughened by the need to support the war effort, struggled to validate their daughters. Domestic skills of the past became old wives' tales in the present. The feminist movement championed this theme and ridiculed anyone who would suggest that a woman's place was in the home. The family suffered.

Modern technology filled in the gaps. Washing machines, dryers, microwave ovens, dishwashers, etc., made it easier to live life on the run. Rather than face awkward moments of family interaction, watching television replaced family conversation. The family suffered.

Public schools were encouraged to become the providers of home economics, shop and sex education classes. Parents were no longer looked to as the primary instructors in these most basic and sensitive areas. The family suffered.

Social time replaced family time. The soccer mom was born. Parents attempted to validate their children by yelling encouragement from the stands. Sports, dance, band practice and other after-school activities replaced family time. Parents convinced themselves that it was for the best. "After all," they argued, "children need socialization." The family suffered.

When America's "Greatest Generation" was pulled from their homes in order to fend off genocidal insanity, Hitler stole much more than freedom and millions of lives; he also gutted the American family. Their absence set in motion a tragic chain of events and the void left within the American home continues to compound its effects with each passing generation.

Today

For nearly a century, the American family has suffered from the effects of declining generational momentum. Surely by now we can conclude that the last 75 years of liberal social engineering have been a miserable failure. Do you know anyone who would say that our culture is improving? Do you know anyone who would conclude that we are safer or more moral? Would anyone conclude that we have a greater sense of decency or that the

American family is more stable?

If not, then why do we continue repeating the same generational mistakes of the past? It is time to own up to our failures. It is time for radical repentance.

Next time we will begin looking at 5 practical steps that must be taken immediately if we hope to survive. Please join us then!

Part 2

What can we do?

During the summer of 2016, the United States Supreme Court gave legal legitimacy to homosexual marriage.

The following news story appeared less than two weeks after that tragic decision by the Supreme Court. Is anyone surprised?

Headline: Polygamous Montana trio applies for wedding license

"A Montana man said Wednesday that he was inspired by last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing gay marriage to apply for a marriage license so that he can legally wed his second wife." - Helena, Montana. (AP), Matt Volz, July 4, 2015, ksl.com

Q: After polygamy, what will follow? Will a push for the legalization of pedophilia be next? Can it really be said that love wins if one man has multiple wives or pedophiles are invited to come out of the closet and prey on the innocent? When man defies the Creator and arrogantly assumes that he is worthy to redefine love, this is the result. Lust becomes love. Divided commitment becomes love. Manipulation of the innocent in order to satisfy carnal cravings becomes love. In other words, just as homosexuals have redefined marriage, love is also undergoing a cultural redefinition.

What Can We Do?

If recent elections teach us anything it should be this, political maneuvering will not save our country. America no longer has the necessary number of passionate Christians to dominate the political process. It is time for a new approach!

Better yet, it is time for an old approach! It is time to implement God's ancient plan! Did you know that God's most ancient directives concerning a functional society centered not on kings, presidents, or even the church, it centered on family? "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth...'" (Genesis 1:28) "...a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24)

When creation needed saving, God looked for a family - Noah and his family. (Genesis 6)

When His promise needed preserving, God looked for a family - Abraham and Sarah. (Genesis 12:1-3)

When His people needed motivating, God looked for a family - Joshua and his family. "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

When His Son needed placing into this world, God looked for a family - Joseph and Mary. (Matthew 1:18-25)

When His future relationship with us needed explaining, God used the family - "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live

with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”
(Revelation 21:3)

From the very beginning, God has always placed His favor upon righteous families. One may ask, “What can we do to restore God’s favor to America?” The answer is ancient and it is obvious - restore the righteousness of the family!

Unfortunately, a righteous generational momentum cannot be restored before the next election cycle. God’s ancient plan takes time and it requires meticulous devotion to detail. For America to be saved, God’s people must stop looking for the “quick fix” (politics). We must start investing in the “long haul” (family).

America is dying for a new approach. Christians can help. But do we have the patience? Do we have the discipline? Do we have the necessary willpower to make the hard choices? Will we embrace God’s ancient plan?

His generational approach will work! Will we?

Practical Suggestions:

1. Keep your children close.

Thanks to a government that has lost its way and has run aground on the shores of insane masochistic reasoning, the public school system is now a very dangerous place for your child both physically and especially spiritually. Protect your greatest investment. Shelter their young minds, bodies and spirits.

When I first penned these words in 2014, the details of yet another horrible tragedy were playing out in news reports all across America. Another madman had shot himself and many others at a school in rural Connecticut. According to reports, the 20-year-old man first killed his mother then directed his violent madness toward an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut. Of the 28 dead, 20 were children between the ages of 6 and 7. One child was shot 11 times.

The nation was in shock. All of us were asking, “What has happened to America?!”

Reports of horrific violence like that have not gone away. In fact, they seem to be coming with alarming regularity. Have we really become such a dysfunctional society that even our grade schoolers are at risk in their own classroom?

The world is self-destructing and our children are too much at risk. Given the level of moral degeneracy, the lack of respect for authority and the constant threat of terroristic acts, a wise parent would give serious consideration to keeping their children close. It’s time to rebuild the safe house. It’s time to rebuild the home.

America has the best teachers in the world, but even they cannot protect our children from the poor parenting that other students are acting upon. New gun control laws will not keep our children safe. More metal detectors, locker searches and police officers in the hall will not solve this problem. To keep our children safe, we must bring them home. We must

reintroduce a full-time domestic guardian (mom) who can train them within the security of our own safe house.

Yes, I know, it sounds extreme. But then again, so does the news that sexual abuse, violent bullying and drug-related crime is common in the halls of America's schools. And so does the news that 20 elementary school kids were gunned down in a small town of rural Connecticut.

Ask yourself this question: What other tragic cultural indicators do I need to see before resolving that it is time to make some radical decisions on behalf of my family?

2. Beg God to bless your home.

Pray! Pray! Pray! Put God's activities at the top of your priority list! Downsize and fast from the distractions of materialism. Study Titus 2:5. Establish a full-time family guardian.

When you dream, don't dream about your child being the best in peewee league and one day getting a scholarship to college.

Don't dream about your child being the most popular, most attractive, most dated person at school.

Don't dream about your child becoming a doctor or lawyer, making a six-figure salary, and living in a big house.

Don't dream about your child finding earthly power and recognition.

When you dream, dream about your child capturing the attention of Heaven. Dream about God entrusting him with Heaven's most difficult assignments. Dream about your child becoming the star player on GOD'S team!

Question: What if your child grew up to be brilliant, good-looking and witty? What if they excelled in school and graduated valedictorian of their class? What if they received scholarships to several Ivy League schools? But what if, instead of pursuing a lucrative career that could provide life-long financial security, they traveled to a third-world country and spent the rest of their life raising a family that works among the poor, the diseased, and the lost?

Would you call that a dream come true?

Until Christian parents take more pride in their child's loyalty to Christ than they do in their child's earthly achievements, God's blessing is at risk and a righteous generational momentum will not be sustained.

An extreme culture requires extreme parenting. But be warned! If you do this, people WILL look at you differently. They will second-guess the wisdom of your decision. Many of them will talk about you as being a paranoid parent with extreme views. They will assume you are neglecting your child's socialization. Some will take it personally. They will conclude that your decision reflects poorly on them and they will therefore distance themselves from you.

As this happens, remember one thing, God did not put you in charge of their home or their children. And they should not be in charge of yours either. You have been entrusted with a family that is uniquely your responsibility. Many of those who will oppose you have already lost their children to the world or are well on their way to doing so. Don't allow others to dictate the way you run your home or the ways you choose to protect it.

If the massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, teaches us anything it should be this - it's time to do more than just hope that the same thing does not happen in our own community. Christians must be willing to make some radical changes. It's time to give our children a schoolhouse that is in a safe house. It's time to invest in a full-time domestic guardian.

The best home security system is the one God commands in Scripture. Titus 2:5 and 1 Timothy 5:14 clearly indicate that God desires Christian women to make a career out of preparing and protecting the home. It is their great commission!

To restore righteousness to the family and garner the blessing of God, we must guard the home and make it a God-sanctioned incubator for the next generation.

3. Prepare for persecution.

Remember, compromise and convenience go hand in hand. Build spiritual muscle. Insist that your family prioritize their spiritual exercise (prayer, fasting, intense Bible study, meditation, memorization, association with spiritual people, serving others, etc.). Put your family on a spiritual diet. Conquer carnal obesity.

Reprioritize the study of God's Word, the importance of the church family, and loyalty to Christ at all cost. This foundation of faith and a spiritual support group will be essential to your family's survival in days to come. Start now by making family devotionals and church activities mandatory, non-negotiable, and a top priority.

Equip your family to make the most of coming conditions. It is a harsh new world. Those with the most knowledge of basic life skills will also have the most opportunity for evangelism.

Fathers, teach your sons how to hunt, fish, and raise their own meat. Teach them basic electrical, plumbing and carpentry skills. As persecution heightens, these skills will be in great demand. The evangelistic opportunities to help others and, in the process, introduce them to Christ will also be at a premium.

Mothers, teach your daughters to sew, garden, preserve food, and cook from scratch. As the need for basic survival skills increases, so will the opportunities for Christians to serve and, thereby, show others the love of Christ.

Americans have grown complacent. Many of the skills taught today will have little or no value in the future. The wisest of us all are those who are alert to the coming danger and have already started preparing for both physical and spiritual survival.

Avoid large concentrations of people.

Have a safe location to which your family can go in times of persecution.

Teach your family how to defend themselves. Christians are not called to be violent aggressors, but we are not called to be naive either.

Matthew 10:16-17, 22-23 (NIV)

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard.... You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another."

Romans 12:17-18 (NIV)

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Value life, especially the life of the aggressor, but remember, you are also called to protect the innocent and defend the weak.

With great intention, the Prince of Peace fashioned a whip and cleared the temple in John 2. In Luke 7, Jesus awarded great praise to a commander in the Roman army, yet He did so without even a hint of admonition that the Centurion should leave his military profession. In Matthew 23, Jesus launched a verbal barrage against the hypocrisy of His day and, in Luke 22, He instructed His followers to buy swords. Jesus is not a pacifist, yet He is the Prince of Peace.

We too must find the balance between "turn the other cheek" and "if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one." (Luke 22:36, NIV)

Pray for wisdom

4. Stand up.

For decades we have watched as the line of morality has been pushed farther and farther away from its anchor point (the biblical principles upon which this country was undeniably established). It is way past time for Christians to make a stand.

Teach your family the absolute, unchanging principles of God. Speak out when your friends trivialize cultural chaos. Vote God's values!

The ONLY solution to this cultural crisis is for the Christian community to return to the teachings of absolute biblical authority. We must also initiate a new generational momentum that will be committed to carrying on that priority.

Rarely, if ever, in human history has a culture been blessed with the level of self-government that Americans now possess. One might even say our nation has been Divinely favored. But with the great power of self-government also comes the great responsibility to be self-controlled.

To maintain the Divine blessing of democracy, the example of God's people is essential. We set the bar. Because we anchor ourselves to the North Star, we also stabilize the culture around us. We are the salt of the earth.

5. Never compromise.

An old Middle East proverb tells of a cold winter's night and a camel that kept begging to get into the tent. First it was just his head. Then it was his neck followed by his shoulders. On and on the camel kept begging until his entire body was in the tent and the master was forced to sleep outside.

Compromise is the greatest enemy of conviction. We cannot shack up with the Devil and expect God to pay the rent. Read Romans 1:32.

The hunter raised his rifle and carefully took aim at a large grizzly bear.

"Wait!" shouted the bear. "Let's talk about this. Can't we compromise?"

"Compromise?" asked the hunter. "Why should we compromise?"

The curious man inched closer to the bear.

"Listen," said the grizzly bear. "You want a fur coat, and I want a full stomach. To compromise, all we have to do is..."

Suddenly, the bear jumped on the man! He wrestled him to the ground and ate him up.

As the grizzly walked away, he licked his lips and exclaimed, "Ahh, compromise! I love compromise! Now I've got a full stomach and he's got a fur coat!"

For decades the American culture has been distracted by the fur coat. We have inched closer and closer to the hungry bear and now the beast is upon us.

Wasn't it the LGBT community that forcefully argued their lifestyle was a private matter. Wasn't it the LGBT community that assured us their private sexual choices would not put our children at risk? Yet here we are! Less than a year after the Supreme Court decided to play god, our children aren't even safe in the bathroom.

The bear is upon us!

Conclusion

The camel is in the tent. The bear is threatening our families. Will we act? Will we keep our children close? Will we beg God to bless our home? Will we prepare for persecution? Will we stand up? Will we resist compromise? Will we finally resolve to act or will we once again drift off into a sleepy state of carnal complacency?

The choice is yours. What will you do RIGHT NOW?!

Part 3

Who will lead?

Even with good intentions, all of the suggestions in the world will not save us unless someone steps up to lead. Earlier we noted that God's most ancient directives concerning a functional society centered not on kings, presidents, or even the church, it centered on family? Within that most foundational unit, God has placed an order of authority and function.

I Corinthians 11:3 (NIV)

"But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

In this closing section we will examine the two most powerful influences within any culture. When these two groups prioritize a righteous submission to the God-given roles within the home even cultural chaos can be solved.

1. Men

1 Timothy 3:4 (NIV)

"He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect."

The passage above was written to describe the criteria of a truly spiritual man, a man worthy of God's blessing in the home and on the church.

Notice the next verse:

1 Timothy 3:5 (NIV)

"for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?"

The goal of every man should be a life that has been managed so well he is even qualified to oversee the work of the Lord's church. When this happens, the family and the church will thrive. When it does not, the family and the church will suffer. I ask you, are the family and the church thriving or suffering today?

Below you will find a dualistic approach to correcting this problem. God has designed us to be both physical and spiritual beings. To achieve the culture-changing, assignment of God, men must first aspire to "manage" the physical and spiritual needs within his own home.

Management in the Physical Realm

Since the time of Adam, a man's primary responsibility to his family has been to go out and bring things in and a woman's primary responsibility to her family has been to go in and bring things out.

In 1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV), God gives a stern warning to men who fail to provide. "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." Notice, God classifies the person who refuses to

provide for his own family as one who has “denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” Men must provide.

In I Timothy 6:10 (NIV), the Holy Spirit points out that “...the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” To have happiness and peace at home, money management skills must be applied. Consider three keys to money management.

1. Work

In II Thessalonians 3:10-12 (NIV) Paul gives this command, “...If a man will not work, he shall not eat. We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.”

Work makes a person feel good about themselves but a constant search for free handouts breeds misery. When a person does not provide for his own, he often feels frustrated, unfulfilled and without value. Working, and being appreciated for it, builds contentment and gives strength to a happy home.

2. Budget

The second key to money management is to budget. I Corinthians 6:12 (NIV) says, “‘Everything is permissible for me’ - but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible for me’ - but I will not be mastered by anything.” Here Paul points out a very important principle for successful living. Be in control.

Do you control your budget or does your budget control you? The credit card debt in America is unacceptably astronomical. Debt robs you of control. Live within your budget.

Someone said, “If you want out of debt, act your wage!”

How many times do you eat out each week? What kind of exorbitant interest rates are you paying on those regular credit card purchases? What could you save if you eliminated one of the vehicles in the driveway along with its license, insurance and repair costs? Is a medium-sized house really necessary, or could a smaller one do? Is it really necessary to heat and cool the entire house even when people aren’t in those rooms? Wouldn’t water and juices be better for your family than sodas anyway? How many varieties of cereal are in your cupboard? How much do you spend each week to feed the pet?

I don’t mean to sound sarcastic, but the list of money-saving suggestions really is endless. The question is, are you willing to make these small sacrifices to honor God and live within your budget?

3. Faith

The third key to money management is faith. In Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV), God instructs His children not to worry about material things because He will provide what they need. In II Timothy 4:10 (NIV), Paul said that his companion, Demas, had deserted the Lord’s work

because “he loved this world”. Although money is a necessary part of a family’s survival, it must not become your passion.

Too many Christian homes have given in to the devil’s subtle temptation to exchange God-given values for those of a money-centered world. Many families today work two or more jobs, not because they have too many needs but because they have too many wants.

A good friend once told me, “You are only as poor as your wants are many.”

Lucifer has made big salaries appear valuable and even necessary, but he has made time with the family appear cheap and even expendable. Don’t mistake it for a minute. Satan is laughing at us. We say, “God comes first.” We sing, “All to Jesus I surrender.” We pray, “Thy will be done.” We quote, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God”, but do we really, sincerely mean it? Do we live it?

Money is only a means to an end. It must never be the primary goal. Provide what you must. Budget what you have. Never lose focus of Heaven.

Management in the Spiritual Realm

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

The word “exasperate” implies frustration, agitation and rebellion. The King James version translates it this way, “provoke not your children to wrath”. Fathers are warned not to create such a setting because it is the very opposite of what God assigned, “bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

Few things provoke a child into frustration like a father’s inconsistencies. “Do as I say, not as I do” is an admonishment given only by fathers who are fools. Children easily see through this hypocrisy. It makes them bitter. Inconsistent fathers breed disrespectful children. These exasperated children rebel against the double standard and often project their disdain upon their heavenly Father. As a result, they reject God’s sovereignty or never accept Him in the first place. What a sobering thought, earthly fathers actually define a child’s view of God.

Dad, if the responsibility of that assignment seems almost too much to bear, let me give you three practical keys to help you keep your example consistent and your reflection of God vibrant.

In ancient times, a blessing from one’s father was just as important as an inheritance. It often involved a meaningful touch, a period of meaningful talk and a wish for a meaningful tomorrow.

In Genesis 48, Israel gave this blessing to his grandsons. In verses 10-12, he gave them the blessing of meaningful touch. The Scripture says that he kissed them and held them on his knees. In verses 15-16, Israel gave his grandsons the blessing of meaningful talk. He reminded them of their godly past and the honor of their name. In verse 16, he blessed them

with hope for a meaningful tomorrow by saying, "...may they increase greatly upon the earth."

Fathers today desperately need to return to this meaningful family tradition. Consider the three following parts of a father's blessing.

1. Meaningful touch

Did you know that when newborns are held regularly they develop quicker and tend to be much healthier babies? Studies show that a touch can lower blood pressure and even aid in healing. God designed us as social beings. We need physical interaction. As social media, internet shopping, and a host of other impersonal interactions continue to dominate our culture, hunger for personal touch will only increase. Your family needs the blessing. Hold them today.

2. Meaningful talk

Someone said, "Talk is cheap." But, that is only true when talk is cheapened by a lack of reinforcing actions. Consider the following passage.

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (NIV)

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth."

Notice when, where, why and how often you should engage in this meaningful talk. Fathers must be good communicators. It is essential to your family management skills.

3. Meaningful tomorrow

Studies show that there is a growing cynicism among young people about the condition that the world will be in when they become adults. The more attached we allow our children to become to the things of this dying world, the less hope they will find in tomorrow. The things of this world will rust, decay and die. Like drinking saltwater when thirsty, the things of this world only produce more cravings and little satisfaction. Only by helping them learn to be content in whatever state they find themselves, and by teaching them to lay up treasures in Heaven, can we help them find any real hope and emotional peace for today and for tomorrow. Teach your children to long for and treasure the potential of their heavenly future.

Conclusion

An extreme culture requires extreme fathers. Vision and initiative are the keys. Think outside the world's box. Do something different. Do something God sanctioned. Be the type of man that when God looks down from Heaven He spots you first and blesses your family because you are an exceptional manager of the home.

The most important mission field a man will ever enter is his own home. Management of that home is essential both to a family's physical survival and, more importantly, to their spiritual survival. Pray for God's guidance. When convicted to change, do so. If a man cannot manage his own home, he is greatly handicapped in his attempt to offer God's values to the world. Don't be a "Deadbeat Dad!"

2. The Woman

Titus 2:3-5 (NIV)

"... teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."

In Titus 2:5, God places Christian women on the front lines of this battle for righteousness. In that passage, the Holy Spirit gives this assignment, be "keepers at home" (KJV), "workers at home" (ASV), "busy at home" (NIV) or to "take care of their homes" (NLT). He then concludes by pointing to the vital importance of their work "that the word of God be not blasphemed." (KJV)

Question: Would you say the American culture typically exalts or blasphemes the Word of God? What does Titus 2:5 clearly say is the key to correcting this cultural crisis?

Given the direct assignment by God for women to be "busy at home" as well as the alarming results of God's Word being "blasphemed", a very important question must be asked - What can be done to guard against the lazy homemaker?

On the following pages, you will find a dualistic approach to this problem. God has designed us to be both physical and spiritual beings. For women to fulfill God's assignment in Titus 2, they must use their Divinely designed skills to nurture both sides of our nature. They must be "busy at home" in both the physical and the spiritual realms.

"Busy at home" in the Physical Realm

One of the greatest falsehoods being preached by the feminist movement is that a stay-at-home mom robs her family of financial security. Few things could be further from the truth. Effective homemakers actually save and create money for the family. Consider three important ways she can do this.

1. By staying home she could cut expenses. Notice the following list of money-saving advantages:

- No need to pay for a daycare
- No need to pay for extra fuel to reach the daycare and then on to work
- No need to pay for an extra vehicle to take the children to daycare and then on to work (bank note, repairs, license, insurance, etc.)

- No need to pay for a baby sitter on days the children are home sick but mom is at work
- No need to pay for extra work suits, shoes etc.
- No need to pay for lunch breaks at a restaurant (eating out is often twice as much as eating at home)
- No need to pay for the family eating out in the evenings due to both parents being too busy and too tired to cook supper

Etc.

When all the expenses are finally taken into account then placed side by side with the after-tax income, one finds that a woman's job outside the home must pay extremely well in order for it to really be worth having at all. And, even if it does provide a profit margin, one still has to ask if the extra money is really worth the extra hassle of having both parents preoccupied and forced away from the home in order to earn it.

A full-time stay-at-home mom not only makes good spiritual sense, it also makes good financial sense.

A homemaker can be a money maker!

2. By staying home, she could more effectively manage the family budget.

Imagine the money that could be saved if families were willing to sacrifice just a little and buy only things they truly need. Go to the closet and count the number of pairs of shoes your family owns. How many of them do they really need? Now count the number of outfits that haven't seen the light of day for the last two years. In spite of this virtual thrift shop of clothing within our very own home, we still buy hundreds of dollars worth of outfits just so we and our children will fit in. A full-time budget manager could help curb a family's vanity and pride.

How many video games, televisions and DVD players does one family really need? We gripe about poor television content, yet we pay for cable, premium channels and satellite dishes to beam the foul material right into our very homes.

How many cell phones, computers and internet access points does it really take to be connected? We harp at our children because they spend too much time on the phone, yet we provide them with every new communication gadget we can find. Think of the savings a full-time budget manager could facilitate.

How many toys does one child really need? We complain about the avalanche of toys that comes tumbling out of our child's closet every time we open the door, yet next Christmas we will again spend hundreds of dollars to surround the tree with more expensive packages. Consider the savings that could open the door for a full-time domestic guardian.

How many times do you eat out each week?

What kind of exorbitant interest rates are you paying on those regular credit card purchases?

The list of money saving suggestions really is endless.

Imagine the money saving advantages that could come if someone made it their full-time job to search out and manage these expenses.

A homemaker can be a money maker!

3. By staying home, she could establish a home business to train her children and provide for her family.

In Proverbs 31:16-18 (NIV), the wise man says this about the financial advantages of a homemaker, “She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.”

Many like to argue that this passage is suggesting the virtuous woman had a career outside the home. I could not disagree more. The emphasis of this passage is on her loyalty and focus to the home. The field, the vineyard and her trading were all part of her home management. This woman was an entrepreneur for the family from the home.

Notice Proverbs 31:24 (NIV) and the potential application for today’s homemaker, “She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.” Think about the training opportunities for the children. Think of the entrepreneurial advantages they could receive from being directly involved in a home business. Consider also the financial advantages and independence offered by an in-home enterprise. All it takes is a little initiative and a lot of hard work for a homemaker to help her family become largely independent of the world’s control.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NIV) we find these practical life instructions, “...make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”

Read that last phrase again, “so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” When a homemaker provides for her family through a home business, she does much more than just save money, she also shelters them from dependence upon the world and their manipulating values.

A homemaker can be a money maker! What a Divinely inspired concept!

“Busy at home” in the Spiritual Realm

Other than Christ, the most foundational element of the church is the Christian home. Think of the impact women could have on the church if they were allowed to focus all their energy on the well being of the home! Imagine what could happen if husbands rejected the American dream of materialistic gluttony and enforced a standard of simpler living on their families. Women would be free to become dynamic ministers of Christ. Without needing to

work outside the home, women would be empowered to develop their God-given ministry within the home. Imagine what that could mean for the stability and growth of the church!

Titus 2:4 (KJV)

“...teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, [To be] discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

This small passage says so much about the dynamic ministry of women. Think about the potential good these applied instructions could bring to the spiritual realm.

- A woman could fully dedicate herself to preparing a safe haven for her husband and her children. Every day, Christian family members must travel into a world of intense sexual temptation, materialistic distractions and spiritual discouragement. From tanning salon billboards and online pornographic popups to sex-filled TV shows, suggestive song lyrics and flirtatious co-workers, your family is constantly being pulled toward a very dark world of perversion. Having a safe haven to which they can retreat at the end of the day is priceless. Having a domestic guardian who understands this threat and makes it her full-time job to maintain this shelter is nothing less than Divine intervention.
- A woman could devote so much more attention to training her children how to honor God and become leaders within His church. This alone would have a dramatic impact on the 70+% desertion rate of young people from the church.
- A woman could better defend her marriage from worldly predators. Imagine the impact this highly focused sentry could have on the 50% divorce rate within the church.
- A woman could convince the world to stop blaspheming the Word of God. Through her example, she could show the world the reality of the Christian advantage.

Yes, I know. Not every woman is able to fully dedicate herself to being a keeper of the home. There are exceptions to every rule and certainly there are exceptions to this one. But when the exception becomes the common trend, it is no longer an exception. Would you say that career homemakers are the norm or the exception in our culture?

Be honest. How many husbands do you know who have enforced a standard of simpler living upon his family in order that his wife might remain at home to have such a ministry? It is time for men to step up and cut back! Be visionary. Think of all the things that could be cut from the budget if a woman's ministry was a real priority. Imagine the great good that would come to our homes and to God's church if career homemakers were the rule rather than the exception.

- She would have more time to serve the church. Romans 16:1-2 (NIV) “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.” In every growing church, women are an essential part its success. Think of what it would mean to the church if more women were free to work like Phoebe.

- She could tend to the needs of the elderly, sick and discouraged. Women are by nature nurturers. Who better to nurture the church's most fragile?

- She would have more time to reach out to the poor and the needy through service projects. Think of the public relations advantage it would give the church! Acts 9:36, 39 (NIV) "In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor... All the widows stood around him... showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them."

Think of the dynamic ministry women could have if only they had more time to devote to their Titus 2 assignment.

Conclusion

Vision and initiative are the keys. Think outside the world's box. Do something different. Do something God sanctioned. Be the type of woman that when your feet hit the floor each morning the devil says, "Oh no! She's up!"

Read again the wise man's description of a woman worthy of praise in Proverbs 31:25-28 (NIV).

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." (Proverbs 31:25-28, NIV)

What woman would not want to have these words to be said of her? Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and Titus 2:3-5 together. Apply the Divine admonishments and accept the Divine assignment. This is the key to guarding against the lazy homemaker.

Whoever said "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" captured one of the most profound truths of the human experience. God has placed within the heart of a woman the potential to not only shape a child, but revive a culture and move a nation.

Some are movers,
some are shakers,
But none compare
to homemakers!

Conclusion

From the very beginning, God has always placed His favor upon righteous families. One may ask, "What can we do to restore God's favor to America?" The answer is ancient and it is obvious - restore the righteousness of the family!

We created the cultural chaos and it is our job to fix it. America is dying for a new approach. Christians can help. But do we have the patience? Do we have the discipline? Do we have the necessary willpower to make the hard choices? Will we embrace God's ancient plan?

His generational approach will work! Will we?

Supplement

Homemaker, A Holy Terror!

Fear This!

“Be the type of woman that when your feet hit the floor each morning the devil says, ‘Oh no! She’s up!’”

I first saw this quote posted online and it has forever changed the way I look at the woman who stands guard over my home! She is indeed a holy terror.

Nothing is more important to the success of a Christian home than holiness. It is the key to our fellowship with God and the criteria upon which He basis our level of blessing. When a woman is free to pursue holiness, the blessing it incurs naturally flows over the entire family.

Notice the following passage.

1 Corinthians 7:14 (NIV) “For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife... Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.”

Although some parts of this passage may be difficult to understand, the general message is clear - a holy woman shares her holiness with her family.

1 Timothy 4:5 (NIV) tells us that a Christian impacts her surroundings by consecrating it through “the word of God and prayer.”

This important verse offers two ways for a homemaker to pass along her holiness to her family.

First, she must be a loyal student of the “word of God”. Having time and taking the time for personal Bible study is essential to a woman’s protective powers over the home. To be effective, she must know her weapon - the “sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17).

Many men encourage their wives to carry a gun in order to keep themselves safe. But how many men arm their wives with time at home to immerse themselves in a study of God’s Word? Imagine the impact a woman could have on her circle of influence if she just had the time to study. She could plan daily family devotionals that have real depth. She could address her family’s questions with answers from Scripture rather than opinion. She could send inspirational messages to her children throughout the day as well as notes to inspire her husband’s spiritual focus. She could conduct online Bible studies with folks around the world and devote real time to her Sunday school classes as well as becoming an outstanding ladies Bible class leader. She could actually challenge her family and her community rather than always playing catch up with her faith. The possibilities are endless. With a little vision, a woman could become a very intimidating

sword-wielding guardian of the family. She could literally become a holy terror to Satan and his forces! Think of the protection she could offer if only she could stay home and study more deeply.

According to 1 Timothy 4:5, the second way a woman passes on her holiness is by blanketing her family in prayer.

What if, after rushing through the insane pace of morning preparations (wake up calls, bathroom conflicts, a thousand questions about “What should I wear?!”, the rush to eat breakfast and the sprint out the door), someone on the team could remain behind? What if that person was designated to collect themselves and find peace on behalf of the rest of her family? What level of protective power could this team member generate if she had the time to calm herself, then blanket her family in prayer? Imagine the great impact she could have.

In the movie “Facing the Giants”, a minister made it his habit to walk the halls of a local school stopping at each student’s locker and praying for a blessing. The impact was overwhelming.

What if a domestic guardian had a schedule that permitted her to do the same in her home? What if each day, before the family returned, she had the time to visit each room of the house asking the Lord to place a special blessing on that part of the dwelling? In the bedrooms, she could ask the Lord to make the room a place of peace and rest. In the living room, she could ask the Lord to guard the family from unwholesome conversation and entertainment. In the bathroom, she could seek protection from vanity. In the kitchen, she could seek wisdom for nourishing the temple of the Holy Spirit. What if every home had a security system that blanketed the entire house in PRAYER?! Think of the blessings that would flow! Every home needs a full-time domestic prayer warrior - a holy terror of prayer!

The first and most important responsibility of a godly wife and mother is the passionate pursuit of holiness. When she is given sufficient time to grow in this area, the protection and blessing she brings to her home will be limitless.

A Shelter Guardian

Proverbs 14:26 (NIV) “Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.”

Husband - Every day Christian husbands travel into a world of intense sexual temptation, materialistic distractions and spiritual discouragement. From tanning salon billboards and online pornographic popups to sex-filled TV shows, suggestive song lyrics and flirtatious co-workers, your husband is constantly being pulled toward a very dark world of infidelity. Having a safe haven to which he can retreat at the end of the day is priceless. Having a wife who understands this threat and makes it her full-time job to maintain this shelter is nothing less than Divine intervention.

Few things are more important to marital fidelity than a well managed fortress called the home. A full-time domestic guardian is essential to the maintenance of this safe haven.

Children - No one is more vulnerable to the social diseases of our culture than the children.

Insane non-stop schedules rob their minds of the opportunity to process and grow within a context of serenity and peace. Rapid sound bites, television commercials and fast paced movie transitions push their little brains to overload. Attention deficit disorders are the result.

The temptation to be sexually active begins in grade school. Beauty pageants, enticing superhero characters, boy bands, an entire television industry targeting their young minds, robs our children of their innocence. It pushes them past their formative years without allowing them to form sufficiently. As a result, a pattern of bad relationships builds until one day they apply this misinformation to their own marriage. A 50% divorce rate is the result.

Materialism is also preached from every medium. Cruel competition is found in every sphere. Humanism (the worship of self) is the unabashed god of the culture in which our children must survive. Nothing is more important to their development than a safe haven in which they can discover God.

The wise man said this about the godly woman who provides her family with a safe haven. "She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. ... she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. (Proverbs 31: 10-12, 21, 25)

One key word jumps out of this passage more than any other - "confidence". Why can this woman laugh at days to come? Because she knows that her home is a fortress of God. Her family has a shelter to run to in times of trouble. She is the manager of this fortress (1 Timothy 5:14) and she has made it her lifelong career to keep it strong.

An effective shelter depends upon two things, the barrier it presents to the enemy and the quality of existence within its walls. Every day, a homemaker must assess the challenges her family will face when they leave the fort. She must then make preparations to encourage, console and close the gate securely behind them when they return home. It is no less than a full-time job to make these preparations. The moral crisis within our culture demands a strong fortress. A strong fortress demands constant attention. Imagine the intimidating fortress a woman can build when she is allowed to become a full-time shelter guardian. She could truly be a holy terror!

A Game Changer!

In every game there is a moment, there is a decision that changes the momentum and the direction of the contest. Very often, it is that single moment that alters the entire game and changes the final score. Many Christians are praying for America to find that game-changing moment.

On every front, God's plan for a civil culture is being undermined. Nowhere is that seen more clearly than the attack on the home. In this great contest for America's cultural dominance, the fundamentals of a Christian home must be reasserted. The first and most important step Christian women must take on the journey toward a restored culture is this, get off the bench. America needs a game changer and, in this situation, a woman is God's star player.

Think of this book as God's way of looking down the bench, catching your eye and calling your name as He points toward the court. It's your turn to shine. You have been chosen by THE COACH. Our team desperately needs to have the ball in your hands! Please don't wave Him off. Rush the court. Take the shot. Be a holy terror!