

Assembling a Home that Lasts

Ephesians 4:25-32

"Don't let the sun go down on your anger, and don't give the Devil an opportunity." - Eph. 4:26-27

Main Point: A Godly home is one that will last

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Have you ever driven by the house you grew up in? Were you pleased with how well it was kept?

How would you describe your life at home growing up? What things have you changed in your home/family now that was a direct result of your childhood?

Paul was directing the Christians in Ephesus in living a new life following Christ. There were some things that needed to be cleared up about how to believers were to treat one another. The principals Paul lays out here can come in handy when thinking about our homes and faith today. What kind of home do you want to build? If it is one that lasts, there are some important things to remember.

Start by reading Ephesians 4:25-32. A Godly home is one of:

1) **HONESTY. Read v. 25.**

Part of our old self that we put away is a lying tongue. We are called to speak truth to one another as followers of Christ. Why is it so important (and so hard!) to be honest?

Has there been a time when you weren't completely truthful with someone? How might telling the truth to that person have been beneficial in their life?

Read **Psalm 15** and take a minute to point out and discuss the verses which pertain to honesty. How does those who live honest lives benefit?

2) **EMOTIONAL CONTROL. Read v. 26-27.**

How can our emotions be a motivator in behavior change? What specific emotion does Paul mention? Read and discuss how **James 1:21** applies.

The word opportunity, or foothold is the same to describe a realm where one would govern, rule, or have responsibility. Paul is saying we should not give the enemy jurisdiction to operate. So what areas of your life has the devil used to get into your life in the past? How can you use that to encourage those facing the same struggle?

3) ENCOURAGEMENT. Read v. 29-30.

Our language is a powerful tool - one of help or hurt. **Proverbs 18:21** says "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue.*" What words of encouragement need to be spoken in your home right now to build up those in your family?

Colossians 4:6 says "Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt." What does that mean to you in the context of how we need to "come alongside" others?

What benefit of encouragement do you read in **Hebrews 3:13**? How can cheering for your family and rooting on those closest to you help prevent them from a life of sin?

4) FORGIVENESS. Read v.31-32.

Paul says we are to remove, or destroy, things like bitterness, wrath, and anger. Why do natural, human reactions grieve the Lord so much?

The way we forgive others affects our own forgiveness. Read **Matthew 6:12** and discuss how the forgiveness we offer our children and those around us can change your relationship with them.

Apply It:

Who have you not been honest with? A friend, neighbor, or family member? Go home and seek to speak truth in love. Who is lacking in encouragement in your home today? Go home and speak words of kindness and support to them and build them up. Who might need forgiveness in your home? Do you need forgiveness? Go home and ask for it.

Pray:

Lord we desire to have a healthy and lasting home, one that will worship you together as a family. We pray you would cover our homes with your blood today and through it we would be purified. Help us release anger and bitterness toward one another and let forgiveness reign. Amen.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Aug. 12: VGroup Leader Meeting 11am in the Student Center

Aug. 19: Discovery Class. 11am in the Student Center. Lunch and Childcare.

Aug. 26: VGroups Fair begins. Continues Sept. 9 and 16.