

A Good Name

This statement is found in Ecclesiastes 7:1-A [good] name is better than precious oil; and the day of death, than the day of one's birth. Do we really understand what the wisdom writer Solomon is saying? You might say that it is a very simple statement and that no one can misunderstand it. Brother Gailen has given us some very pointed lessons about the "Home" that is Man's, Woman's, and the Children's role in the home. Now, if we follow the biblical advice so presented to us we will have a "Good Name," That is Father/Husband, Mother/Wife, or Child by adhering to the role assigned to us by God. The Gospel Meeting touched on several areas of the home and each individuals' responsibilities first to God then to the family. I thought between Gailen's lessons and those presented at the meeting covered all the areas. But just maybe there was one area that was not fully discussed. Computers, yes, I sad computers! I have over heard several conversations amongst our beloved sisters that suggest that computers are robbing their families of precious time together.

I can recall as a boy when my brother and I came home from school we had certain chores to perform before the family sat down for the evening meal. Then we would gather in the living room, where we would listen to the radio and talk to each other about the events of the day. It seems to me from the advent of the television the "Living Room" has a new designation "Front Room". Why do suppose this change came about? Is it because the actions in that room has changed? That is, watching instead of living. Has our living changed because of what we are watching? In general the answer must be an emphatic yes!

Into our homes has crept yet another inanimate creature "The Computer". I'm computer illiterate, that is I don't have the foggiest idea how it works. Yes, I'm sitting down at my computer to write this article, and yes it saves me a lot of time in my daily bible study. Yes, am guilty of sitting in front of it's screen and enjoying what it can do, but I know where the off switch is located. Let us go back to our opening remarks, a "Good Name", that is not a gift bestowed upon an individual but a title that is earned. Husband, after all is a name unmodified. What modifier would your family place in front of your role as husband? Attentive, Loving, Good-tempered, Caring, Provider, Leader, Counselor, Giver of one's self? OR Inattentive, Unavailable, Thoughtless, Harsh, unaffectionate, Can not be bothered I' on the internet.... What about Father, that also needs a modifier, you get the picture.

My beloved brethren, we need to honestly evaluate the kind and the amount of time we spend with our families. God's has placed and awesome responsibility on man has head over the family (Eph.5:23--For the husband is the head of the wife, and Christ also is the head of the church, [being] himself the saviour of the body.) The Scriptures informs us that we must be doers of God's will--(Jam. 1:22-28 --But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves. 23 For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: 24 for he beholdeth himself, and goeth away, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But he that looketh into the perfect law, the [law] of liberty, and [so] continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man

shall be blessed in his doing. 26 If any man thinketh himself to be religious, while he bridleth not his tongue but deceiveth his heart, this man's religion is vain. Remember that God requires His children to be doers of His will, and not watchers. In verse 26 it talks about our tongue, how do we answer our family when we are using the computer? Do we get a little short?

I just can not help to think there are some real issues here as so many Godly Wives are troubled about this situation. From my past experience as a husband and father the first thing that comes to a man's mind is defense. Then we usually will sit down and sift the evidence to see if we are guilty. Then comes the task of correction.

Brethren look at a few Scriptures with me:

Romans 14:11-13--For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, to me every knee shall bow, And every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge ye this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock in his brother's way, or an occasion of falling.

Can a computer become a stumbling block to our families? I believe that if we are truly honest with ourselves we would have to admit there is a danger here.

Matt.12:36-37--And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Men let us be careful how we respond to our family when operating the computer.

2 Cor.5:10--For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things [done] in the body, according to what he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad. Let us remember that the family is a gift from God, and He has placed us as head of the family..

Jas.2:24--Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith.

My beloved brethren, let us be consumed by doing the will of God in every area of life. Let us not forget that we are forming the very lives of our children and instilling in them family values that will carry them through the rough waters of life and the temptations that Satan is ready to hurl at them.

A salesman knocked at the door. The man came to the door, and the salesman, smiling, said, "May I speak to the head of the house,. please?" The gentleman said, "Well sir, the real head of this house has put me in charge for now--so what's on your mind?" How wonderful it would be if we would keep in mind who is truly "the head of the house". (GOT 2/16/95)

