

# **A Blueprint of a Christian Home**

## **Psalms 128**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

### **Series-2**

It was the spring of 1994 and my dad and mom were finalizing the purchase of a new farm on Redbud Road. Celisa and I had already chosen the blueprints for the new house we would build on the edge of the farm even before the title was signed and the farm was paid for. We were that excited! We had started out in a mobile home on Hwy 94, and then moved to a remodeled 100 year old farmhouse on Dexter Road. Now we were going to build the house of our dreams. We prayed and prayed over it and finally found the style of house that we thought fit the location of the farm. We took the plans and went to a building material supplier who is a friend of ours. He gave us an estimate on how much it would cost to build that house. We also took the plans to a local builder who was going to frame the house for us. We decided that we would finish it ourselves after it was framed in. We were so excited because when we added the figures together, with a little extra just in case, it was exactly within our budget. The backhoe was coming in a few days!

I cannot tell you what was in my heart when I woke the next morning. We were both brushing our teeth at the bathroom sink and when our eyes met in the mirror, I pulled the toothbrush from my mouth and said, "Honey, I don't feel right about building this house." Now you guys know how difficult that is to say to a woman who has picked out her dream house! With her eyes still looking at mine in the mirror, she said, "Me either." Now we laid the toothbrushes down and turned to each other and she said, "What are we going to do, the backhoe is coming?" I told her my heart; "I believe it is God's will for us to build a house, but there is something about

this house that isn't right and I can't explain it." She said, "What are we going to do?" I said, "I have meetings this morning at church that I cannot get out of. So you go to town and get more books and pray and then meet me at 11:30 at Hardees." A long story short, we met at Hardees and chose a different set of plans. The first house was 2800 sq. ft. and the house we were choosing now was only 2000 sq. ft., but there was some room over the garage that with truss rafters, we could make into a bonus room. There was a little space above our master bedroom that if we finagled the rafters just right, we could possibly get a few more feet as well. We ended up building the house of our dreams. We hope it was by God's providence, but for some reason when we finished this house, it cost exactly what they said we could build the 2800 sq. ft. house for! If we had built the first house, while there was nothing wrong with that house, we would have been in trouble! It would be terrible to build a dream house and it not be the right house.

## **A Blueprint**

Many people are trying to build their dream home, or they are trying to remodel their dream home. But the reality is that many of us are living in a home that is far from the home we thought it would turn out to be. I want to share a blueprint of a Christian home. I am not saying the blueprint. After 33 years of marriage, there is no way I would say that I have the blueprint for a Christian home, meaning this is the only blueprint. I am saying this is a blueprint for a Christian home. If you have answered the question of why you want to build a dream home and the answer is to glorify God and for the good of every family member, then you desire to build a Christian home. If you have answered the question of where you will build this home, and you decided not to build it on the shifting sand of the world's pop culture, but on the solid rock of God's Word, then I want to offer a blueprint that you can follow. If we follow it, we can possibly enjoy our dream home for the rest of our lives. It will not only bring honor and glory to God, but it will benefit each and every family member.

## Scripture

This is a psalm that is straight out of the hymnal of the children of Israel. It is actually a psalm they sung about home and family life. The context of the psalm before it is also about home.

***"Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!"***

Let's imagine for just a moment that we are sitting at the kitchen table and we have a blueprint before us of a Christian home. There are seven things in this blueprint that I think we should examine as husbands and wives. If you are single, I would really listen well. I think, probably, the biggest mistake most of us made was to assume we were building a Christian home. We assumed we were doing it right. We just did it like everyone else was doing it. I mean, we live in a Christian nation and live in a Christian community. But truth be told, when most of us began to build our home, we had no blueprint at all. We didn't follow any guideline at all.

It dawned on me as I was preparing for this study that this would be like calling the lumber yard to have someone dump the lumber on our lot, and then paying someone to put it together! No doubt, if you got the right builder, it would be a house when you got done with it, but would it be the house you wanted or the house they wanted? None of us would begin to build a house without someone showing us what the house will look like. That is why some people want to buy a house that has already been built.

They can't envision what a house will look like from a blueprint. They want to see a 'hard copy' of it in the community where it will stand. There is nothing wrong with that. However, when it comes to being a Christian, each of us must have a desire to build a Christian home.

I want to suggest that if we are going to build or remodel a home, let's have a plan. Let's have a blueprint that we will follow. Doesn't the Bible teach that He has a blueprint that He follows as He builds us into a Christian? By a Christian, I mean someone who is a fully devoted follower of Christ. That is what the word predestine means; it means to blueprint; to determine beforehand what something will be like when it's finished. If God is using a blueprint in our personal life as a Christian, it makes sense for us to build our home according to a blueprint too. It will allow us to know what our home will look like when it's finished before we even start. That just makes a lot of sense!

I believe there was a time in this country when Americans built Christian homes. But I believe the pendulum has swung so far that we now have Christians building American homes instead of Christian homes. I am not saying the people building the homes are not Christians. Do you see this difference? A Christian home is a home where Christ is Lord of that home. The purpose of the home is to build a home that brings honor and glory to God and that will benefit every member of that home. If we truly had Christian homes in America, would our divorce rate be 50%? If we were truly building Christian homes, would we be losing our children at such a high rate in the Church? There is no way! So, if we are going to build from scratch, or we have been married for years and we will remodel, let's do it according to a blueprint. When we finish building, it will be what we want it to be. I want to touch on seven things I believe are major to building a dream home on the solid rock of God's Word.

## 1. The Footer – 2 Peter 3:18

*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ."*

No one would build a solid house without a good footer. You have to dig it down below what is called the frost line. When you build the footer below the frost line, it will not give, it will stand strong.

In the dream home, the 'footer' is every family member's relationship with Christ; the footer on which everything will be built. In other words, if you are going to build a home on the solid rock of God's Word, we must have a relationship with Jesus Christ and must desire for every member of our family to have one as well. Daddy, who is first a husband, must have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. He must not just be justified, but he must be in a process of being sanctified and growing into the image of Jesus, and longing for the day of glorification. We must also have that in every wife. In the Church, we have to quit marrying for evangelism purposes. I can look at some couples where one is saved and the other isn't and see that it worked out great. I thought they shouldn't have married, but their spouse finally got saved and everything has been great. But I have also seen that it didn't go well for others. You married someone you were unequally yoked with and you are still unequally yoked in your marriage. As a believer, you cannot remodel and divorce that person and start over again. But if you find yourself in a situation where the spouse is gone and you do decide to remodel, make sure the person you will live with the rest of your life has a relationship with God through Christ. Make sure it is not someone who just says they are saved, but is revealing that salvation. The 'footer' is the most important thing in the marriage; your relationship with Christ. Be careful if you are justified but you know you aren't growing the way you should be. You know your mind is on your job or school and you pick a spouse when you aren't where you should be. You will choose incorrectly, and there will be a consequence for the rest of your marriage.

## 2. The Foundation – Genesis 2:24

I don't know why, but sometimes we neglect the foundation and don't have it checked for termites. Sometimes we just assume the foundation will never move.

- **Illustration:** When I was little, my granddaddy Bogard had a house that you sure couldn't have bowled in because there wasn't a floor in his house that was level. If you dropped anything, it ran to the corner of the house. I remember crawling under his house and it didn't look like Mom and Dad's house. Dad's foundation was built with stones laid together. Granddaddy's had stones here and there, and there and here; not bonded together. It was neat to crawl under there though because you could go everywhere. But I noticed that as those stones had shifted on the ground, everything above that stone had shifted too. But we don't want foundations like that. We want a Genesis foundation:

*"Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and they two shall become one flesh."*

There are three blocks in the foundation of every Christian home unless it has been hit a tornado or hurricane (a death).

- A. First block - The man leaves his parents.
- B. Second block - The man cleaves to his wife.
- C. Third block - The man and wife become one.

Later in our study, we will talk about how to leave, cleave, and become one. The Christian Church has so abandoned the home today that we have many people who believe it's not acceptable to have a marriage based a man leaving his parents and cleaving to his wife. We have a government that believes it is ok for a man to marry a man, or a woman to marry a woman. I never thought I would live to see the day where the President of the United States of America would publicly endorse that! We will not bash

anyone, but this is the shifting sand of pop culture. It is not the truth of God's Word.

### **3. The Subfloor – Ephesians 5:22-33**

When a man leaves his parents and cleaves to his wife, and they begin to become one, there is a 'subfloor' that begins to be built. On this 'subfloor', everything else will be erected. If we are going to have a Christian home, I believe it is crucial that you understand this. You see, the footer is your relationship with Jesus and the foundation is the husband-wife relationship. But the 'subfloor' is what is evident in the home, which is that daddy loves mama like Christ loved the Church and mama respects daddy like the Church respects Christ. This is what we have to have in Christian homes. We cannot have homes that glorify God if it is not evident that daddy loves mama. How can your home be a Christian home if the wife does not respect the husband? How can we claim to be under the lordship of Christ and disobey what He teaches? From a pastor's perspective, as well as my personal perspective as a husband rearing two children, if there is one thing we are going to get right, let's get this right! Ephesians tells us to love your wives, and wives respect your husband! I realize if there has been a divorce or death, this changes. We will talk about how to remodel that later. The purpose of this sermon series is not to condemn anyone who has had a tornado or thunderstorm come through.

### **4. The Master Bedroom – Hebrews 13:4**

Children do not have a say in building this home. This conversation at the table is between husband and wife. If we are going to bring honor and glory to God, the first room that you must examine is the master bedroom with a master-bath. Once you have chosen to build a Christian-style home (on the solid rock of God's Word), you have to decide how many sq. ft. you will have in the house. Then you have to divide the footage between the different rooms you will build. The biggest room in the home should be the master bedroom with a master-bath. I guarantee that every man and

woman has a *house* where the master bedroom is generally bigger than the other rooms, especially the children's rooms. But when I look at *homes*, it is not that way. The master bedroom and master-bath is very tiny. The husband and wife never get any time together! I look at the children's room and they are consuming the family! That is not biblical, and it is not Christian. The primary relationship in the home is not parent-child, it is husband-wife. Now, don't go sit down at the restaurants and debate me on this. Why do you think God put a whole book in the Bible called The Song of Solomon? It was to talk about how intimate the relationship should be between the husband and wife. I challenge you to read that book.

Hebrews says:

*"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."*

Now, you need a master-bathroom. You need a well lit room in the relationship with your spouse with mirrors, a bathtub, a shower, a sink, and a commode. Living in this world in which we live, we will come home dirty. You need to be able to say to your wife, "I have sinned. I have tried to say for years that I am alright, but I'm not. I have sinned against you honey. I have sinned against God. I am confessing to you that I blew it." You need her to be able to say, "I forgive you."

- **Illustrations:** Do you remember the ice storm? At our house, we weren't sure how long our water would last, so we didn't flush every time we used the bathroom because we didn't know if there would be enough water to get us through. Whew!
- If you have babies, you have put the dirty diapers in a trash bag or diaper pail and in about 6 hours, whoa, you have to take them out!

You see, if you do not build a Christian home, you will have stuff that will stink that has been in your marriage from years ago because you didn't flush the toilet; you didn't empty the diaper pail! God has designed a divine septic tank system called the blood of His Son, where each of us as



Christians, husbands and wives, can live cleanly before Him and cleanly before our spouse! Yet we refuse to confess and repent, and the consequences are disastrous to the marital relationship. We will talk about this later as well.

## 5. The Kitchen

What will you 'eat' in your Christian home? Will you put in the refrigerator and a stove? Are you going to stock it with forks, knives, and utensils? Will you have a dining room right next to the kitchen or will you do microwave all of the time? I'm telling you, when you develop a Christian home, it will be cheaper and easier just to 'eat out all of the time.' It's easier to just pick up John Piper, or Mark Driscoll, David Platt, or listen to Matt Chandler. It is easier to feed you family great, nutritious meals from another. I mean, why should we even 'cook' at home anymore when there are so many great places that are almost like home cooked? You and I may not be a David Platt or a John McArthur, but our families need moms and dads who are in the Word and learning to 'cook' and sit down at the dinner table! While we are talking about all of the other things we are involved in, make sure we are 'feeding' our children from God's Word.

- **Illustration:** I didn't start out as a very good griller. My brother-in-law, David, was an expert griller long before me. But I am almost as good as he is now. Many times early in our marriage, we would get ready to grill and I would let David do it and I would do something else. But now I have grilled enough after 33 years that I am pretty good!

It is the same way with God's Word. The first 'meal' you serve your wife and kids will not be much, but if you'll hang in there, it will be exactly what they needed. I will teach you how to 'cook' from God's Word, as a husband and a wife.

## **6. The Children's Room – Ephesians 6:1-4; Proverbs 22:6**

There are a lot of verses that talk about the relationship parents have with children. The husband-wife relationship is supposed to be oneness and the parent-child relationship is supposed to be obedience. And it is not parent obey the child; it is child obey the parent. You have to have a home that teaches your child that life is not about them. If we do not break our kids from thinking that life is about them, they will grow up to be daddies and mamas who think life is about them. That is where we are now. The reason there is a 50% divorce rate in America, I would say, has a lot to do with husbands who think it's about him and the wife thinks it's about her. Someone in America has got to start believing again that marriage is about God! Now, in the public forum, we will never hear that being talked about. Marriage will always be framed in a discrimination theme. The person who is really being discriminated in marriage today is God!! We have to get back to building Christian homes, and we have to have a blueprint.

## **7. The Living Room**

In the house I lived in as a kid, we had a big living room. I remember having a racecar track, and I played it in the living room. My sister had her toys, and she would bring her stuff in the living room. Mom and Dad were in the living room too; we were all doing our thing. That is why the living room was called the living room. The bedrooms are for sleeping, bathrooms for getting clean, kitchens and dining rooms for cooking and eating, and then you have the big living room.

We don't have big living rooms in our homes anymore. The family doesn't live together anymore. Children are in their bedroom, not sleeping, they are playing video games. Dad is downstairs or at the golf course, or in the yard. Mom is upstairs on Facebook!

Now get ready, I will address social media. It is an absolute shame what many of us are posting online for the entire world to see! I will introduce a

thought that God has convicted me of. I have already been convicted of texting while driving, but He has convicted me of 'texting while living.' The Christian community is so living a distracted life now that the biggest distraction in our life now is the cell phone. We dads have got to start saying, "I am not answering", if you are at home eating with your family. I get calls and people say, "I didn't expect you to answer." Then why did you call if you didn't expect me to answer??

We all need a blueprint. Let's choose a blueprint that says that you will have a Christian home when you finish.