

## PILLERS OF A HAPPY HOME

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*"And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that are written in this book. And the people stood to this covenant." II Kings 23:3.*

King Josiah uttered these words standing by a great pillar at the house of the Lord. He then ordered everything of false worship removed and the temple of God was rededicated, and the people pledged to follow the Lord. The word pillar is used 47 times in the Bible. It features a pledge to obey God in the promise made. Today I am thinking of the pillar of your home and mine, the family, with the responsibilities, of all members of the family. Certainly today our families are in great need. Having a happy home entails a lot of promises and work to make a home a success. I want to list the most important ones. **(1). A Lifelong Agreement:** *"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh, What therefore God has joined together, let not man put assunder."* Matt. 19:6. It is without doubt the will of God that marriage should be a lifetime agreement. It should not be entered into lightly, but with a solemn promise to make it last forever. The many breakups today bring great pain to the union, and any children involved. True marriage as God ordered it is one man and one woman married together, "Till death do us part." **(2). Requires Spiritual Unity:** *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"* II Cor. 6:14 In the Old Testament in Amos 3:3 he cried *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"* A

harmonious family life is impossible when only one is a born again follower of God.. Disobedience to this will bring defeat, friction, and disaster to any mixed marriage. You cannot expect God to bless what was begun in deliberate rebellion. Bringing up a family is a tough job when lead by split relationship and born out of disobedience. **(3). Biblical Structure:** *"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment."* Genesis 18:19a, It is very clear that the man is to be the head of his home. The father is accountable for every child born into his family. Further structure requires *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands, as unto the Lord."* Eph. 5:22. Clear leadership responsibility is placed Biblically on the man. Further, *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and thy mother: which is the first commandment with promise. That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."* Eph. 6:1-3. I remember a saying, "You Tarzan, and you Jane and you kids Cheeta." The husband must cherish his wife and children and should control the home in every area. A wife who bosses her husband and a milk toast husband who want lead, spells tragedy for younger members in the family. A great home has Dad first, mom second and you kids under the desires and leadership of the Christian family. Don't argue teen Colossians 3:20 commands *"Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."* **(4). Training and Protection:** *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it."* Prov. 22:5. Parents are accountable for the crucial lessons your children must learn. Teach them the importance of prayer and Bible reading, as well as Christian service and the church. Challenge them to become in their adult years a true servant in some area, Shape their values and their morals and warn of the dangers in today's

entertainment. Dear parents you must block out the evil TV programing and worldly music, and know what they watch on your TV. A child with their own TV in the bed room is an accident waiting to happen. Teach the beauty and timing of God ordained sex, and firmly warn about all the "kinky" stuff going on. You must draw a circle of protection around your family, knowing where they are and with whom. **(5). Loving Correction:** *"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: and he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."* Prov. 13:24. Good Christian parents must be always in control. Every child will try your will to require them to do right. I can remember many times when both my mother and father corrected me. Dad was worse because he used the razor strap while mothers heart seemed broken over my transgression. I learned to say "I am sorry" very early in life, and I thank God and my parents for the chastisement I received. **(6). Self Discipline:** *"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."* Eph. 4:32. Parents must set the example of patience and love, never to scream commands and judgment. What if the Lord spoke to you like you speak in anger to your children? After the penalty is assigned, we must show love and demonstrate patience. Remember your parent actions are daily shaping or miss shaping your kids. Patient discipline needs to be evidenced in the lives of every believer. **(7). Daily Family Worship:** *"Therefore shall ye lay up these words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they might be frountlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children speaking of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up."* Deut 11: 18& 19. At home you ought to sing, pray, read, discuss and teach your family spiritual things. Don't leave it all up to your pastor and the church. Be

like Joshua and say "...As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24: 15. **(8). Constant Example:** *"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me."* I Cor. 4:16. You parents must be in agreement, and give your kids equal treatment. Beware dishonesty, arguments, and all that cheapens your leadership before your kids. As parents be doers and not just hearers maintaining a great testimony, Let your children see your greatest desire in life is to please Christ. The whole family must show their love for each other and for others. **(9). Church Involvement:** *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much more, as ye see the day approaching.* Dad, be faithful to your church, and bring your family to worship together every service. Not just sitting on a pew, but doing things for the Lord in church. Sing in the choir, teach in the Sunday School. Mom work on the welcoming committee, and as a family learn the joy of serving the Lord with others. **(10). Lastly Be Heavenly Minded:** *" If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* Colossians 3: 1&2. Shift away from worry to *"casting all your care upon Him."* I Peter 5:7. Lead your family to glorify Christ, redeem the time, and invest in heaven. Todays families seem so tied up in sports, possessions, recreation and wasting many hours each week in things that can't compare with spiritual values. Let's stop wasting time at the worlds altars of excess and entertainment. Draw your family around you and live your life like tomorrow was the Rapture. Be ready and keep looking up.

**REMEMBER: Your family is the only thing you can take to Heaven with you**