

The Dignity and Sanctity of the Home

*Through wisdom a house is built,
And by understanding it is established;
By knowledge the rooms are filled
With all precious and pleasant riches.
Proverbs 24:3-4 (NKJV)*

*... to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, ...
Titus 2:5a (NLT)*

The first institution that God established was the family. He established divine order in the first home, the Garden of Eden. He gave specific instructions to the first family, Adam and Eve, requiring them to be obedient. Throughout Scripture we can see that God has conferred *dignity* and *sanctity* on the institution of the home.

Dignity and Sanctity Defined

Dignity | The word *dignity* is defined as “the quality or state of being worthy, honored or esteemed, particularly in manner, character or appearance.” Dignity refers to the value of a home both in physical appearance and in the godly character of those who dwell there. A home that has dignity sets standards of order and creativity with the godly characteristics of love, righteousness, servanthood, hospitality, honesty and loyalty.

- Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Matthew 6:33, Joshua 24:15, Hebrews 13:2, Psalms 24:3-5, John 15:13

Sanctity | The word *sanctity* is defined as “holiness, godliness, a sacred thing.” The sanctity of the home is its purity in heart and purpose—it’s wholeness and holiness in tone and mood. Home is a duet of devotion and worth—devotion to God while valuing one another. Home is a sacred place for the human soul to be recharged, renewed, refreshed and restored.

- Read: 1 Peter 1:15-16, 1 Peter 2:9, Psalms 1:1-3, Romans 12:1, Philippians 4:8-9, Proverbs 3:3-4

It Starts at Home

Regardless of your giftings, calling or occupation, or if you are married or single, with or without children, are a young adult or a senior, live in a house with your family, an apartment with friends or a condo with your pet, God has designated women as the primary influencers in the home. As we read about in Proverbs 31:10-31, women are to cultivate loving, joyful and peaceful settings in our homes for the purposes of honoring God and building godly relationships with others through every thought of our minds, attitude of our hearts, word of our mouths and deed of our hands.

A house becomes a home when people spend time together in it. And, nothing can replace the nurturing environment of a healthy home. When you create an atmosphere of love, joy and peace in your home, then you are making your home one of dignity and sanctity.

Refocus and Rebuild

Society's popular trends should never dictate what you do or don't do in your home. Within the law of the land and under God's law, we have a higher mandate. We must refocus our attention on the worth and value God places on the home.

The home is not just a physical structure where people dwell. It's not just the return address on your mail or the place where you park your car at night. God designated the home to be a central part of our lives. The home is to be a nurturing place where those who live there build healthy relationships with one another, learning and laughing and growing together, and building a sense of identity and community from which our society is formed.

Proverbs 14:1 says, "The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands." As women, we are charged in Scripture to be wise and build our homes because home is where the heart is formed. Our hearts can either be hurt or hardened, or they can be strengthened and made to become secure and sensitive because of what we experience in the home.

Home and Society

In one of the most widely read books of all time, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Edward Gibbon gives "Five Basic Reasons Why Great Civilizations Withered and Died." These are just as true in today's society as when Gibbon wrote them in 1788.

1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis for human society.

2. Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more brutal, more immoral.
4. The building of great armaments when the real enemy was within—the decay of individual responsibility.
5. The decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide the people.

Home has ceased to be the center of family activity. Even seemingly good and helpful activities can at times usurp the time that a family needs at home. Yet, not a single one or even all of these activities put together can replace the nurturing environment of a healthy home. Who one becomes is a direct reflection of where one spends most of their time. Home is the basis for human society.

Home and Human Needs

Every human soul cries out for these essential needs: love and peace. When these two vital elements are not provided in the home, a life-long search begins which can take people into some very dark places. Because home is the central system in which human development occurs, the function of the home should be carefully designed. Seeking God's plan for the function and design of your home will make it a place where each person living in that home can experience His authentic love and peace.

As you consider the arrangement of your home, it should be thoughtfully and intentionally planned out to ensure that priorities are instilled in the lives of members of the home. How your home is set up and what you do there will determine the outcome. For example, if you want a peaceful environment, then your home must have organization and order. If you want it to be comfortable, it must be arranged in a way that will cause people to want to relax. If you want your family to be industrious, you must assign responsibilities to each family member. If you want your home to express love, you must be willing to sacrifice your selfish goals and choose to put others before yourself. If you want your home to be hospitable, you must equip it for the comfort of the guests you plan to invite. If you want your home to bring honor to God, then you must acknowledge Him in all that you do.