

"Meet the Architect"

Psalm 127

- I. Introduction
 - A. The home is foundational, the heart and soul of any society
 - B. Though society needs the home, it is attacking the traditional idea and values of the home
 - C. One overarching area Christians struggle with the most is the home
 - D. Today's Christians don't have a clear understanding of God's blueprint for the home, so they are looking for answers in the unbelieving world and emulating their worldly counterpart
 - E. The Lord is the architect who created the blueprint
 - F. In the Old Testament, the word *house* is often used as a synonym for what happens in the house—family life (see v. 1)
 - G. Although Psalm 127 is a song of ascents, it is not speaking of Jerusalem, but of the home (see v. 3)
 1. The fifteen psalms that are called *songs of ascents* were memorized by the children of Israel and sung by families on their way to worship in the temple
 2. Psalm 127 is the poetic expression of a family that depends on God—a smart home
- II. The Designer: *The Lord* (v. 1)
 - A. The psalm begins by highlighting the Lord because He created the home
 1. "Unless the Lord builds the house" (v. 1)
 2. Genesis 2:18
 - B. Marriage, the family, the home, and society were all God's idea; love also originated with God
 1. Jeremiah 31:3
 2. 1 John 4:19
 - C. It always begins with God; if marriage was man's invention, then man could regulate it, tamper with it, nullify it, and redefine it
 - D. Because it was God's idea, it is subject to God's principles (see Matthew 19:6)
 - E. The covenant name of the Lord—the tetragrammaton (YHWH)—is used in verse 1 to emphasize that the designer of the home, the heavenly architect, the blueprint maker of the home is the covenant Lord
 1. The Lord who created a covenant with people out of His love for them designed a covenant for people so that His love can spread on a human level
 2. Premarital booklet illustration
 - a. Triangle with God at the top and the husband and wife at the other two points

- b. The closer you draw to God as an individual, the closer you are to your spouse; strengthen the bond by seeking the Lord
- III. The Builders: *God and Us* (vv. 1-2)
 - A. There are two ways to build a home:
 - 1. The not-so-smart way: you build it, you design it, then you ask God to bless it
 - 2. The smart way:
 - a. Discover the design that the first designer already created; because He invented it, He knows how to make it function at peak
 - b. This results in experiencing the thrill of God at work in providing for your home and protecting your relationships
 - B. A divine builder and human builders
 - 1. "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (v. 1)
 - 2. This verse simply states the idiocy of trying to go it alone in life, trying to build on your own
 - C. God gives you the energy and the power, but He expects you to work at it; God works in you, but you still have to do the work
 - 1. Philippians 2:12-13
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 3:5
 - D. Building alongside the designer, using His design
 - 1. You'll never be the husband, wife, or parent you could be without the Lord building with you
 - 2. It's not smart to build without the Lord
 - 3. Life is lived at its best when you build alongside the Lord (see 2 Corinthians 6:1)
 - E. Build and put all that you can into it, but you also need to acknowledge the divine architect; a smart home begins by first recognizing who the designer is
 - F. Little is much if God is in it; much is nothing if God isn't in it
- IV. The Dwellers: *Families and More* (vv. 1-5)
 - A. A smart person will be all about building relationships
 - 1. The words *house* and *city* (see v. 1) are pictures of edifying, building up, providing for, and giving protection to the home
 - 2. Your life at its irreducible minimum is relationships
 - B. Children are God's best gift (see v. 3)
 - 1. *Heritage* should be translated *assignment*
 - 2. Parents are meant to shape the destiny of their children, but children are also meant to help shape their parents' personality and destiny
 - 3. Children are the only earthly items you can take with you to heaven
 - C. God wants to be a part of every part of your life, including your family life
 - 1. Have you invited Him into every area of your home?
 - 2. When Jesus was with His disciples, He ate with them, cooked breakfast for them, walked with them, fished with them, etc.

- 3. God walked daily with Adam and Eve in the garden (see Genesis 3:8)
- D. The Lord wants you to enjoy life and to enjoy Him in your life
- E. Trust "in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17)
- V. The Enjoyers: *Everyone Involved* (v. 5)
 - A. A smart home makes happy people and produces happiness
 - 1. In verse 5, the Hebrew word for *happy* is *esher*, which can also mean blissful, contented, satisfied
 - 2. Build projects for temporal profit or build people for spiritual, eternal profit, as seen in the contrast between verse 2 and verse 5:
 - a. Verse 2: someone investing in activities, but producing anxieties (unhappy and unfulfilled)
 - b. Verse 5: someone investing in priorities and shaping destinies (happy and fulfilled)
 - B. Happiness begins with the man because he leads the home (see Joshua 24:15), but it's pervasive and includes everyone in the home
 - C. A smart home is a happy home because:
 - 1. The Lord has designed it, helped to build it, strengthened it, provided for it, and protected it
 - 2. Children have been brought into it and have been launched successfully from it; they've hit their target, and they're making an impact, a difference, in their society
 - D. Not only is the home happy, but so are the neighbors and the city; it impacts everyone
- VI. Conclusion
 - A. Our personal relationship with God should affect every relationship in our home and in our lives
 - B. "If your father and mother, your sister and brother, if the very cat and dog in the house, are not happier for your being a Christian, it is a question whether you really are one" —Hudson Taylor

Figures referenced: Hudson Taylor

Hebrew words: *esher*

Cross references: Genesis 2:18; 3:8; Joshua 24:15; Jeremiah 31:3; Matthew 19:6; 2 Corinthians 3:5; 6:1; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Timothy 6:17; 1 John 4:19

Topic: the home

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