“FOCUSING ON THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE HOME”

 The heart beat or “pulse” of “Heart in Home Ministries” is a driving desire to see a monumental return to the fundamentals of the home. What I mean by “fundamentals” is when you look at the Home as a Biblical institution there are fundamental topics that can be seen within the boundries of the Bible. Topics ranging from relationships and how to build and maintain them, to leadership and authority, to the spiritual walk with God of those within the home, to finances, to child rearing, etc. can be dealt with at a very fundamental level. Granted the Bible will not tell you what athletic team your child should play for, or what instrument they should learn, or what hobby they should be involved in. However, you will find the fundamental teachings and principles for the home that will guide you in all of these other questions. The home is a design of God and is a very dynamic structure. It demands the constant attention of those who are a part of its structure if it is to be a strong place for individuals to dwell and thrive the way that God wants us to. In our day we use terms such as dysfunctional, broken, single parent, etc in reference to the home. What we do not hear in the nomenclature is that of having a “Biblical” home a “Scriptural” home. I have heard from a child the expression used of a “Christian” home. What does that really mean? What does having a Christian home mean to me or you? Is it just because we go to church? Is it because all in the home are saved? I would love to see homes that exhibited the heart, spirit, compassion, grace, patience, love, and sacrifice that Christ did. Our problem within the arena of “Christianity” is that we have not been honest about the condition of the homes that make up our churches. Husbands who do not step up to their responsibility, wives who go beyond their responsibility, parents who have not found the discipline to train their children in right and children who live in a state of confusion that is not of God, but is of the devil. Where are the absolutes for the home? What is the final authority for the home? All of these scenarios find a resolution within the Word of God.

 Therefore, it is the desire of “Heart and Home Ministries” to reignite a movement back to the home and to get the heart of the individuals focus off so many nonessential diversions and back to the priority of the home. Obviously, that will be through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. Have we grown tired, yet, of the destruction of so many relationships, marriages, and homes? Have we done it our way long enough? Parents, preachers, and teachers, let’s push for a movement back to a **Biblical** home. As a rural pastor, I have seen what the destruction of the home holds for the future churches in America. I have pondered the future of the church that I pastor in 20 to 25 years. Will there be individuals who will take up the mantle to build a strong home? Weak homes are hanging on by the thread in our church pews and we wonder why there is no revival or growth. Will the home stand the tide of a culture that endeavors to redefine it at its very core? As church leaders, we no longer deal with just Dad and mom. Instead you deal with dad and stepmom, mom and stepdad, and step siblings. Will there be individuals qualified to hold offices within the realm of the church in our future? Divorce is wreaking havoc on the home, and in my humble opinion it is a part of the Devil’s plan to hinder the church.

 God has given us the burden to pray, preach, teach, and to work to see homes strengthened so that they will be happy and healthy and our churches will be strong and true once again. The famous quote states, “HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS.” This is the target for our ministry. The heart is our goal. **Proverbs 4:23** “*Keep thy* ***heart*** *with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*.” Let’s commit together to work diligently to keep the heart of the home. Fathers, stand vigilant. Mothers, stand committed. Families, stand together to bring honor and glory to God; through your faithfulness to each other and to the Lord.

 There is a lot of work going on to save differing institutions these days. I want to purpose as a husband, father, preacher, and teacher to work hard at saving God’s first institution…the home. Before God gave us nations, governments, and even the church he gave us the home. God expressed by the homes priority in His design the importance and value that it has to Him. God loves the HOME and FAMILY!

Written by Pastor Rob Ellard, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, January 17, 2012