

**JUDGES 17-1-5**  
**CONFUSION IN THE HOME!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Judges chapter 17 as we continue our in-depth study through the book of Judges.

And, as we have seen, this has been a wild ride as we have looked at all that took place in the lives of the children of Israel, and it has not been very good.

In fact, this is probably one of the darkest books, spiritually speaking, regarding the children of Israel.

And the reason for that is that they have turned from the Lord and it took persecution, bondage from their enemies for them to realize their sin and cry out to God for deliverance. But once they had that freedom, after the Judge that God raised up to deliver them died, they were back to their old sinful ways and they departed once again from the Lord!

And if you thought that the first sixteen chapters of this book were dark, you ain't seen nothing yet. The last five chapters of Judges is even worse and the key is given to us in Judges 17:6, where we are told, "**In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**"

That truly is the key, they did not look up to the King of kings and Lord of lords, but they did what they wanted, what they felt was right and we know that is never a good thing because man's heart is evil!

Thus, what he thinks is right and what God says is right are on opposite ends of the spectrum!

Now as we move into these last five chapters of Judges, chapter's 17-21, please understand that they are not necessarily in chronological order but they are more of an appendix just filling in some information that occurred during this period of the Judges.

In these chapters the Lord is giving us a picture of the hearts of the people and He does that by showing what is being manifested in their lives. And this probably took place early on in the book of Judges.

In fact, some of this possibly took place during the time of Othniel the first Judge. The reason I say that is that in Judges 18:30 we see Jonathan mentioned and it says "the son of Manasseh" but that was probably done purposefully by a scribe to protect the reputation of Moses because he was the grandson of Moses and he was very evil!

Also, the last 3 chapters also were probably occurring very early on because in Judges 20:28 we read of Eleazar, the grandson of Aaron mentioned.

Now, in Judges chapter's 17 and 18 the focus is on the spiritual condition of the people and it is not pretty.

And as we look at Judges chapters 17 and 18 over the next few weeks, we are going to see three institutions that God has established being destroyed by sin!

The one we will be focusing on this morning will be – ***CONFUSION IN THE HOME!***

And, as you will see, God established the home and apart from God being the center of a home, things will be a mess. There will be much confusion on what is right and what is wrong as we will see.

Then we will look at – ***CONFUSION IN THE CHURCH!***

And, once again, this is so important for us to understand. The church is to be the pillar and foundation of the truth, but if what they are preaching, if what they are teaching is not truth, not from the Word of God, then the whole foundation will crumble!

And then, in our last study in this section, we will be looking at – ***CONFUSION IN SOCIETY/GOVERNMENT!***

And what I mean by that is that people are doing their own thing, making their own laws, just as leaders are doing, and they are laws that will allow them to satisfy their flesh and not follow after God!

Listen to how Warren Wiersbe sums this up for us. He wrote,

In his well-known poem ***“The Second Coming,”*** the Irish poet William Butler Yeats describes the collapse of civilization in vivid and frightening imagery. Each time I read the poem, I feel chilled within; and then I give thanks that I know the One who is coming.

***“Things fall apart,”*** writes Yeats; ***“the center cannot hold.”***

The closing chapters of the Book of Judges echo that theme: “the center can-not hold.”

The nation that once marched triumphantly through Canaan to the glory of God now disintegrates morally and politically and brings disgrace to His name. But what else can you expect when there is “no king in Israel” and the people are flouting the laws of God?

The events described in chapters 17-21 took place earlier in the period of the Judges, probably before the forty-year rule of the Philistines.

The movements of the tribe of Dan would have been difficult and the war against Benjamin impossible if the Philistines had been in charge at that time.

The writer departed from historical chronology and put these events together as an “appendix” to the book to show how wicked the people had become. In three major areas of life, things were falling apart: the home, the ministry, and society.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT, p. 467

Just look at our nation today and look at how far we have departed from the things of God. Look at how we accept and praise the sin that we are involved in, instead of grieving and repenting over it! We have come a long way baby, and that is not a good thing!

We have moved so far from God and we flaunt our sins right in His face! And there is coming a day when the grace of God will come to an end and the wrath of God will be poured out upon a Christ rejecting world, and I think we are getting very close!

I think what we have read here in Judges fits what we are like today, **“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”** Judges 17:6.

And apart from God guiding us, there is much confusion in our lives, in our society and in our churches!

Listen to what Noah Webster wrote about “confusion” in his dictionary that was put out in 1828. He wrote, ***“To mix or blend things, so that they cannot be distinguished.”*** (American Dictionary of the English Language – Noah Webster 1828)

I think that sums things up perfectly for us. In the family life, look at how mixed up we are because we try to blend together what a family is instead of listening to what God tells us a family is. Thus, we have no idea, we are unable to distinguish what a family really is!

In the church, the same is true. The church tries to blend or mix things together. The things of God with the things of this world, and you cannot tell the church apart from the world, they cannot be distinguished!

And then there is society and the government where things are so mixed up, so messed up, we don't know what is right and what is wrong anymore. We can't distinguish what we should be doing and thus, we do what we feel is right!

What we see today is mass confusion!

Let me share this with you and I think you will see the confusion that is going on. We are told,

A university student was seen with a large "K" printed on his T- shirt.

When someone asked him what the "K" stood for, he said, "Confused."

"But," the questioner replied, "you don't spell "confused" with a "K."

The student answered, "You don't know how confused I am."

- Source Unknown

Now we laugh at that but look at what has taken place with the crazy protests that have been going on. They will burn down buildings, attack people, attack the police because they are protesting the fact that, in their mind, black lives don't matter in our country. The crazy thing is they will burn down business of people that are black. They will attack black police officers. So the reality is, they are very confused and have no idea what they are doing because they have turned from God!

Maybe you heard this before but listen carefully and then we will look at our text this morning. We are told,

A “do it yourself” catalog firm received the following letter from one of its customers:

“I built a birdhouse according to your stupid plans, and not only is it much too big, it keeps blowing out of the tree. Signed, Unhappy.

The firm replied: “Dear Unhappy, We’re sorry about the mix-up. We accidentally sent you a sailboat blueprint. But if you think you are unhappy, you should read the letter from the guy who came in last in the yacht club regatta.”

- Source Unknown

Again, ***CONFUSION!***

In our study this morning, dealing with – ***CONFUSION IN THE HOME!*** I have broken these verses down as follows,

***NAMED AFTER GOD – JUDGES 17:1***

***CONFUSION IN THE HOME – JUDGES 17:2***

***IDOLS IN THE HOME – JUDGES 17:3-5***

So with the remainder of our time this morning, let’s begin reading in Judges chapter 17, beginning in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we look at this topic -

***CONFUSION IN THE HOME!***

**JUDGES 17****VERSE 1**

Here we are told of a man who lived in the mountains of Ephraim and his name was Micah. Interestingly enough, the name Micah means, “*who is like YAHWEH.*”

What a great name and the reality is, as we shall see, that is all it was.

Also, according to Judges 17:5 he had sons, so he was also married.

Obviously, his parents knew of the God of Israel because of the way that they named their son. But, as I have said, that is all it was, just a name because his life is not going to reflect a relationship with the God who was in his name, that he was to represent!

Now, how in the world does that even relate to us today or does it relate to us as Christians?

I think it does. Did you know that the word “*Christian*” comes from the Greek word christianos, meaning “*little Christ*”? And that the accusers of Jesus’s disciples used it as an insult!

What is my point?

It is this. We are representatives of Jesus Christ and thus, our actions, our behavior, our speech, the things we do and the things we say should reflect the nature of Jesus! If they don’t, then we are not representing Christ correctly. In fact, we are misrepresenting Him!

Listen to what Paul wrote in II Corinthians 5:18-20, **“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”**

Let’s look at these verses a little closer.

First of all, Paul tells us that our trespasses, our sins have separated us from God and God stepped in, God became flesh and dwelt amongst us to pay in full the penalty for our sins so that we can be reconciled to God!

Peter put it this way in I Peter 3:18, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

Jesus has reconciled us back to the Father and now, as we come to Christ, we have that ministry of reconciliation. Not that we can save anyone, but we can tell people of Jesus, the One who can and has reconciled man to God!

J. Vernon McGee put it like this, ***“The ministry of reconciliation is actually God’s call to lost men everywhere to come to Him with all their sins, all their burdens, all their problems, all their difficulties, and to be reconciled to God.”***

That is what the Great Commission is all about, bringing the Gospel message to the lost world and then making disciples of those who come to Christ, teaching them the things of God from the Word of God!



You see, because all that Christ has done for us, reconciling us back to God, we, as His ambassadors need to bring that message of reconciliation to the world.

Keep in mind that an ambassador doesn't speak for himself but for the one who sent him, and for us it is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ!

Thus, as we go out, we implore people; we come alongside people urging them to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, to not allow the terror of the Lord to come upon them, the wrath of God for their rejection of Jesus!

We have that ministry of reconciliation and thus, because we are His representative, we must be careful how we live, the things we do and the things we say because we are representing Him before the people.

In a sense, like Micah's name means, "*who is like YAHWEH*" we point people to the true and living God, Jesus Christ!

But it is a struggle and even more so as darkness spreads across our land, as evil grows more and more.

Did you ever think that you would have to conform to what the world is saying and if you don't you are a hater, you are unloving, you are racist, you are . . . and you can fill in the blank and it is never good!

We don't have freedom of speech anymore. We must conform to the world or we will be censored, we will be fired, we will be plummeted with hatred, but they don't see what they are doing as being hateful!

Now we don't compromise what we believe, but the pressure is sure increasing for us to do that!

Let me share this with you and you will see the battle that is going on and what we need to do, to continue to be ambassadors for Christ.

We are told,

Christians stand out in the darkness of the world because of our joyful attitude, hope for the future, and ability to have faith through hard times. When others see these qualities in us, they will be curious as to why we act this way. And it's another opportunity to tell others about Jesus!

But a Christ-like example is hard to maintain. Our world is studded with sin and temptations, and one of the dangers we face is misrepresenting God.

His teachings are wholesome and right, but sometimes we misinterpret them and take them out of context.

Many Christians judge or condemn others, and in some cases, drive people away from Him. I have friends who refrain from calling themselves Christians because of our reputation of being judgmental or shunning others.

There are countless stories of awful church experiences or times when Christians have even persecuted each other.

These actions are a result of human sin and aren't pleasing to God. When we act this way or use His teachings to try to win arguments, prove points, or blatantly condemn others, we're not only sinning, but we're also misrepresenting Him.

- <https://bit.ly/3kAF6Ff>

Thus, we must be careful in how we live out our lives, what people are seeing in us, are they seeing Jesus?

For Micah, as we will see; yes, he was, in a sense – *NAMED AFTER GOD*, but what happens in his life and in the family is just plain – *CONFUSION IN THE HOME!*

## VERSE 2

Here is this man, Micah, whose name means “*who is like YAHWEH*” and what does he do? He stole 1,100 shekels of silver from his mother!

Not only that, but then we see his mom, not knowing who stole these shekels, puts a curse on the person that did this dastardly deed!

And please understand that this was not just a few quarters that he took. This was a lot of money and the reason I can say that is because in Judges 17:10 just ten shekels a year was a decent wage! So this family was very wealthy, they had this great fortune saved up, money on the side, you might say.

And now someone has stolen it. Well, not someone, Micah stole this from his mom.

Now it would seem like he was a little nervous now, since a curse was placed upon the person who stole this, so he confesses to his mom that he stole her silver!

And the response from his mother is very interesting. You see, instead of rebuking him, even correcting him, she tells him, “**May you be blessed by the LORD, my son!**”

Did you see that? Instead of punishing him or even rebuking him for what he did, she blesses him, and it is even worse than that!

Notice that “**LORD**” is in capitals and thus she is speaking of Yahweh! She wants Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to bless her son! Keep in mind that he stole this fortune and the only reason he returned it was because of this curse that his mother had placed upon the person who took these shekels.

What a messed-up family. She calls for the Lord to bless her son the thief! This again just show's where they were at as a people and it was not good!

Let me show you some bad examples of praising bad behavior. We are told,

“A friend of mine has 2 boys, both the same age as my girls. Both boys have behavioral issues, and my friend and her husband (both teachers) have some interesting views on child-rearing. Because of their behavior, I tried to keep our socializing kids-free, but she kept asking to meet up with the kids and I finally relented. Our younger kids were about 4. Her son was being really aggressive with my daughter, and my friend wasn't doing anything about it. I was just doing my best to keep him away from her, but at one point my daughter climbed up onto the couch where her son was seated. He said to her, 'Get off or I'll kick you.' I made a move towards my daughter to get her out of harm's way but it was too late - he just drop kicked her right off the couch. My friend's reaction? She looked at him and said, 'Well done kiddo! You warned her first!'”

Are you kidding me? That is the reaction of this parent. Not good.

And then there is this one,

“A neighbor's son and my daughter went to the same small preschool and were in the same class. Her son was known to hit and had bad temper. I don't think my daughter played with him at all but it's a small group of 2-3 year old's playing in a small outdoor area in the preschool every day. Kids at that age usually do 'parallel play,' meaning no direct interaction like in pretend play. One day, he allegedly hit my daughter. When I told the mother about it, she said, 'If you don't want your daughter to be hit, tell her not to play with my son.' The moral of the story is that if you don't want a bully to bully you, stop playing with the bully. That's not the craziest part of the parenting.

Teachers often reported the violent tantrum incidents to the parents. After many reports, my neighbor pulled her son out of that preschool and told everyone that they wanted a different school because, ‘The teachers complain about my son’s tantrums too much, but don’t know how to do their job teaching my son to behave.’”

And we wonder why kids grow up and behave the way that they do! We also see this bad behavior ignored,

“While holidaying in Malawi back in the ‘70s, a young American girl at a nearby table expressed her discontent with what she’d been served by swiping the plate and its contents off the table to smash loudly and messily on the floor. Her mother’s shocked reaction? ‘Naughty plate!’”

So it is not the child’s fault, the plate is bad! Wow, I wonder where this will end, and it won’t be good.

Now, for animal lovers, this one is not for you! We are told,

“I was out walking my dog with my mum in a neighborhood park. My dog’s a Jack Russell Terrier and he was put on a harness and leashed. All this time, he was trotting in step with us - no pulling or aggressive behavior. Basically, just a routine day at the park. As we rounded a corner past a playground with a sandbox, this 5-year-old boy hurls a huge bucket of sand at us and proceeded to throw the bucket at us after. My dog bore the brunt of it and yapped in pain and we had sand in our eyes. My mum was suitably upset (mind you, she’s one of the kindest people I know, and doesn’t swear or use vulgarities at all) and so she approached the little boy’s mum and said in an even, non-aggressive tone, ‘Hey, did you know your son just hurled a bucket of sand at us? The bucket also hit my dog.’”

The boy's mother replied, 'so what, it's just a dog anyway.' My mum decided not to reply, she just shook her head and we took off."

Wow, I don't even know what to say with that one.

And this is a very sad story. We are told,

"Years ago, while I was teaching middle school in a rural community, I had a young man in my 7th grade History class who had struggled through much of his school career. It was difficult to fail my class, as I tried to evaluate on performance AND effort. My goal was to teach kids facts and knowledge, but to also teach them systems of learning and enhance those learning skills. Anyway, Jeremy (we'll call him) failed my class two grading periods in a row. Concerned with his language skills, I asked that he be tested, to evaluate his reading level. Not surprisingly, it came back showing a 1st to 2nd grade reading level. Immediately a conference was arranged with his parents to discuss programs to get his reading skills up to speed. Myself, the school counselor, and the principal were present. The dad comes in, and there are introductions and hand shaking all around. After an explanation of the test results, options for assistance were detailed, all of which included after school tutoring with a resource instructor. 'Naw, there's no way,' was the response. I asked what the problem was. 'He's gotta practice.' I coached all the athletics at my school, and Jeremy did not participate in any of them, so I asked what he needed to practice. Looking me square in the eye, dad says, 'You wanna know what I do for a living?' Sure, I responded. 'I'm a professional fly caster. I got me a world record for fly castin' over the [Houston] Astrodome! Now Jeremy's gotta get home and practice his castin' every day!' I was taken aback, and pointed out the reading tutorial was only 30 minutes, 3 days a week.

Dad leans over the table, and says, ‘I can’t read for s--t, and I’m doin’ just fine. He’s gonna be a professional fly caster, too. What in the hell does he need to know how to READ for?!’ And that, my friends, was that. It’s a sad story, with a sadder ending that’s best not included here, but as you can guess, Jeremy never got the reading help he needed.”

Just one more, and it needs no comments, you will see what I mean. We are told,

“My stupid stepbrother tried to hold up a local gas station using what turned out to be a fake gun. But that wasn’t the stupidest part. He attempted the robbery in the family business’s van with the name of the business, its address and phone number painted in bright gigantic print. The station attendant screamed, so the stepdummy ran away, screeching the van for all to see and hear. Then he comes home and pretends nothing happened. Minutes after he gets home the police arrive. Stepmother harangues the police about harassing her son just because he’s a known drug abuser. Yup, SMH. For some reason stepstupid tells his mother what happened. She comes out of the kitchen, infuriated. Not at him. At the victim! She’s furious that her son should get charged at all since he didn’t get any money, and in her words, ‘MY SON NEVER HURT ANYBODY!!’ Damn that victim for overreacting. I guess having what you believe is a real gun shoved in your face isn’t a fundamentally hurtful situation. ‘ALL HE DID WAS DRIVE A VAN!’ About two months later we get a call that he was locked up again, this time in Dade County. Different charges. Of course his mother was livid, but once again, not at him. This time at ‘those redneck cops’ whose goal in life was to mess with her son.”

- <https://bit.ly/32TGo8g>

I know, it is hard to believe these stories, but they are true, I am sad to say. And that is what we see here with the mother of Micah. She is praising him and calling for God to bless him and yet, he stole the family fortune, before giving it back, and there are no consequences for his actions!

Here is the problem, even with secular psychology, they feel that their children are angels and can do no wrong. I don't want to upset any of you, but that is not what the Bible teaches.

Children are not born good; they are born with a sin nature and that is why we need to train them up in the things of God and we do that with Biblical discipline.

Remember, **“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”** even children!  
(Romans 3:23)

We wonder why we see children, young adults and even older adults behave like they do, or I guess I should say, they don't behave but are out of control. The reason is simple, we have moved away from what God has told us in His Word and people are doing what is right in their own eyes, and that is never good!

Let me give you a few examples to show you what I mean about Biblical discipline.

The first few Scriptures deal with taking in the things of God and how important that is, to learn what God desires so our heart can be conformed to His.

In Proverbs 6:23 we are told, **“For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.”**

God's Word guides us, it lights our path and corrects us when we are going in the wrong direction. We need to listen and then obey!

Also, in Proverbs 12:1 we are told, **“Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.”**



Make no mistake about it, God's Word is truth, it is what we need to follow and when we don't listen, when we do our own thing, that is just plain foolishness and it will get us in trouble!

And now, disciplining our children.

In Proverbs 13:24 we are told, "**He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.**"

Now we are not talking about child abuse but letting them know that they have done wrong and not several hours or days later. We need to deal with it immediately, so they understand that what they did wrong is not acceptable. Obviously, this is for smaller children, by the time they are teenagers, you don't discipline like this any longer. You may have to ground them or take things away from them, so they understand that there are consequences to their actions.

In Proverbs 19:18 we are told, "**Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.**"

That should just make sense. If you care for your children, you will train them up when they are young, so they don't continue on with bad behavior!

In Proverbs 22:6 we are told, "**Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.**"

Instill the things of God into their lives when they are young. Yes, they may do their own thing when they are older, but all that you have given to them will still be in their lives, and God will use that to draw them back to Him!

Then, Proverbs 22:15 tells us, "**Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.**"

Think about the things you knew when you were a child, things that you thought were good and now that you an adult, you see the folly in them. Kids will do and say the craziest things, and thus, we train them up in the things of God, good things and drive out the bad with correction.

And, in Proverbs 23:13-14 we are told, **“Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. you shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.”**

In other words, if you really love your child or children, you will discipline them. We saw the foolishness in those stories of parents that withheld correction from their child and as they grow up, they will come to the conclusion that what they have done is okay. They will feel that there are no consequences for their actions.

We have seen that with all the rioting, especially in the democratic cities that did nothing about the violence, the burning of buildings and cars. It just encouraged them to continue doing it because there were no consequences to their actions.

And, interestingly enough, when actions were taken, the rioters were surprised by it, surprised that there were consequences to their actions. Go figure!

In Proverbs 29:15 we are told, **“The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”**

How true that is. Children learn right from wrong by correction and if they are not corrected, look out, there will be trouble down the road!

In Proverbs 29:17 we are told, **“Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.”**

Not much to add to that one!

I hope you have seen the need to discipline and if you don't, well, there will be –

***CONFUSION IN THE HOME!***

And the next point just shows what the home becomes as you depart from the true and living God and you do what you want to do!

There will be – ***IDOLS IN THE HOME!***

VERSES 3-5

So once again we see that he gives his mom back the silver shekels that he stole, and she then dedicates this back to the Lord.

Now that sounds really good, but there is more to it than that!

She is going to use some of this money to make carved images and molded images with!

And it is even worse than that as you see where her heart is at, and it is not with the Lord, obviously!

Remember, there was 1,100 silver shekels that she got back. And out of that she only used 200 of them for the Lord.

Now, these idols that were made for her, she did not have to wait months to get them. I want you to see how easy it was for her to get these molded and carved images made in Israel!

She did not have to dig through the phone book to find an idol maker because they were well known! All she had to do was place her order through Amazon Prime and within a few days she got her idols! Okay, maybe not Amazon Prime, but you know what I mean.

When you look at this, you can see what a sad state of affairs this family was in and what the children of God were in!

And please keep in mind that these idols were used to worship the true and living God, but it was not in accordance with the Word of God, and thus, it was wrong.

I saw the other day that some huge church, during their worship service, had this roller coaster set up and part of the worship team were going around and around on it singing praises to God.

Were they worshiping God?

Sure, they were worshiping God, but not in accordance with the Word of God. He is Almighty God and we don't worship God with props! Sorry, that is not how we do it, we worship Him in Spirit and truth!

A good example of the wrong way to worship God is seen in the golden calf that the children of Israel made at Mount Sinai to worship the Lord. And guess what, the Lord rejected that, and He still rejects objects that we make to worship Him by.

He wants our worship, not some idol!

When people lose the consciousness of God they resort to idols, stained glass windows, incense, even roller coasters or whatever can draw them back to God instead of what can really help them, God Himself!

Could these have been idols to pagan gods?

It could be and some feel that way and again, that is obviously wrong, only God is to be worshiped!

Then notice what Micah does. Look again at Judges 17:5, where we are told, "**The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.**"

Today we would call Micah a religious man because of what he was doing but the Lord does not approve of it even today!

He is not interested in religion but a relationship and here Micah takes these idols, these images and makes a worship center with them and then he takes his son and makes him the priest of this worship center.

He even set up household idols or teraphim that were nothing more than gods that were worshiped to bring about prosperity and guidance!

Not only did he break the Law that God established in Exodus 20:4 by making these images but his son is not from the tribe of Levi nor is he a descendant of Aaron and he had no right to be priest!

Why all this confusion?

I think Judges 17:6 explains it perfectly. We are told, **“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”**

Thus, we see the – ***CONFUSION IN THE HOME!***

Make no mistake about it, the home is an institution that God has established and thus, Satan wants to destroy it and he has done an amazing job with the destruction of the family!

God created Adam and Eve, husband and wife and the husband was to be the spiritual leader of the family, then Eve and then the children!

Today, many don't even know what a family is all about, some even in the church, because they don't hold to the book of Genesis. God has established what the family is all about and it is not open for discussion, this is just the way it is and because we are not obeying the Lord here, we see all kinds of ***CONFUSION!***

Let me share this with you and listen carefully to what this writer has to say. He wrote,  
 A nation is like a wall that is composed of brick or block. Each family is represented by a brick or block. What happens when the individual brick/blocks begin to crumble and fall apart? What will happen to the wall?

The family regulates and develops character. Everything that you are was generally developed from your family. While it is true that power of the gospel has the ability to overcome difficulties in the family, it is a more difficult route. The family does not necessarily determine what you will be (there is always free will); but, the statistics show that it is more difficult to overcome the effects of a bad family.

That is why people say, if you want to see how someone will turn out – look at their parents. A daughter will be like her mother, and a son will be like his father (usually). No one has a stronger influence upon you than your family. Ask any educator.

The family teaches love. The family should teach the proper love between husband and wife, and parent and child. Those relationships, by example, teach how to interact with other people.

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. (Colossians 3:18-20 KJV)

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, {sober: or, wise} To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. (Titus 2:3-5 KJV)

The family teaches responsibility. Life comes with responsibilities – responsibilities, especially in our relationships.

There is a responsibility to work. It has sometimes been called “the Protestant work ethic,” but it is the godly work ethic.

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 KJV)

The family gives stability. The influence of a stable relationship whether it is between husband and wife or parent and child can not be underestimated. The only common denominator of those in prison is that there was not a stable father figure in their lives.

The family is the basic unit of society.

- <https://bit.ly/2FQcut4>

What is a family? Webster defines a family as ***“a family group that consists only of father, mother, and children.”***

And now what we see is that the family is made up of anyone and everyone you want. We have lost sight of what God ordained in the Garden of Eden and we have embraced these doctrines of demons!

Look at the rise of socialism and Marxism in our country and many people are wondering why?

The answer is really simple, and we may be too far down the road to turn this around and the reality is, the church has compromised so much we are not making an impact like we should!

Karl Marx believed, he taught that when war broke out that the workers of the world, that is the blue-collar workers in Europe, would not fight against each other but they would rise up and fight side-by-side against the ruling class.

He was wrong. The workers of their respective nations fought side-by-side for their homelands and the Marxists were stunned by this. And the conclusion that they came to was that the working class had been poisoned by two-thousand years of Christianity and what was true in Europe is also true in America!

Look at the battles that have been fought for our nation, the pride we once had in this nation. When war broke out men, women and children were involved helping out because they loved America so much! That has changed today!

And what has happened in Europe is happening in America as Marxism, socialism has infiltrated our nation. There was a group of men that came to America and this group was known as the “Frankfurt School” and they came to infiltrate every area of American culture and their goal was to win Americans to Marxism, not through war but through a “cultural revolution.”

Let me share with you how this is played out. We are told,

Military historian William S. Lind, in his essay “*Who Stole our culture?*” cites one of Gramsci’s famous colleagues, the Frankfurt School’s Herbert Marcuse, dubbed the “father of the New Left.” Lind picks up the story in the pivotal decade of the ‘60s:



*The student rebellion of the 1960s, driven largely by opposition to the draft for the Vietnam War, gave Marcuse a historic opportunity. As perhaps its most famous “guru,” he injected the Frankfurt School’s cultural Marxism into the baby boom generation. Of course, they did not understand what it really was. . . . Marcuse and the few other people “in the know” did not advertise that political correctness and multiculturalism were a form of Marxism. But the effect was devastating: A whole generation of Americans, especially the university-educated elite, absorbed cultural Marxism as their own, accepting a poisonous ideology that sought to destroy America’s traditional culture and Christian faith. That generation, which runs every elite institution in America, now wages a ceaseless war on all traditional beliefs and institutions. They have largely won that war. Most of America’s traditional culture lies in ruins.*

It turns out the Frankfurt School, and particularly Gramsci’s notion of the “long march through the institutions” – takeover through gradual evolution, rather than violent revolution – was the only way to introduce Marxism into America.

While *“Lenin’s regime shook the world for seventy years, ultimately his revolution failed, and his regime collapsed,”* concludes Buchanan. *“The Communist Party of Lenin and Stalin remained what it had been from the beginning, a conspiracy of political criminals who used Marxist ideas and rhetoric to disguise what they were really about: absolute power. Lenin’s regime died detested and unmourned. But the Gramscian revolution rolls on, and, to this day, it continues to make converts.”*

“To old Marxists,” summarizes *The Death of the West*, *the path to power was the violent overthrow of the regime, as in Paris in 1789 and in St. Petersburg in 1917. To the new Marxist, the path to power was nonviolent and would require decades of patient labor. Victory would come only after Christian beliefs had died in the soul of Western Man. And that would happen only after the institutions of culture and education had been captured and conscripted by allies and agents of revolution.*

. . . However, it gets even more surreal. These neo-Marxist academics, whose influence has been so pervasive in academia, determined that the best way to achieve total dominance over America's culture as "through psychological conditioning, not philosophical argument," explains Buchanan. Thus, "America's children could be conditioned at school to reject their parents' social and moral beliefs as racist, sexist, and homophobic, and conditioned to embrace a new morality." So, while most American parents have never heard of the Frankfurt School, the ideas it promoted were very well-known throughout the teachers' colleges of the '40s and '50s.

Oh, and just one more thing: While the great seducers of other past civilizations have captivated the masses with charismatic religious teachings, powerful appeals to national pride, mesmerizing emotional speeches, and the scapegoating of innocent minorities, the Frankfurt School guys, particularly Marcuse, found that sex and drugs would get the job done just fine.

- David Kupelian, "The Snapping of the American Mind, pp. 32-33

Phyllis Schlafly, in her book, "*Who Killed the American Family?*" explains to us that this was not just an accident, but this was the plan, the goal of the progressive left. She wrote,

***"The goal of the progressives," Schlafly broadly summarizes, "is to break down the American family, destroy parental authority, deny right and wrong, reduce family autonomy, and get as many people as possible dependent on government programs. That's why liberals, especially feminists, wage a persistent attack on the institution of marriage and the traditional family structure.***

- David Kupelian, "The Snapping of the American Mind, p. 36

Now, in saying all that let me ask you this question. Has America lost its moral compass? I think we would all agree that America has lost its moral compass, and everyone does what is right in their own eyes. ***CONFUSION FLOURISHES!***

And the reason we have lost our moral compass, or at least one of the reasons is the breakdown of the family! Remember in our study on the family and how we said that parents were to train their children in the things of God. Well, now we have a generation of parents that have moved away from God and thus, they are instilling in their children the things of this world.

And this brain washing that is going on is seen on television, movies, music, and even in the school system.

Let me share with you some quotes that will show you that the destruction of the family was something that was planned and carried out. And when you listen to what they are saying you can now look at how they succeeded! Listen carefully, it will probably make your blood boil, or at least it should! We are told,

**The nuclear family must be destroyed, and people must find better ways of living together. . . . Whatever its ultimate meaning, the break-up of families now is an objectively revolutionary process. . . . “Families have supported oppression by separating people into small, isolated units, unable to join together to fight for common interests. . . . - *Functions of the Family, Linda Gordon, WOMEN: A Journal of Liberation, Fall, 1969.***

[Let me ask you this. Are we better off now with the destruction of the family? Absolutely not! Look at all the mental disorders that are out there and you know what, years ago those problems were dealt with within the family. They talked to each other, they worked things out, but no more and what we see is people who are becoming more and more dysfunctional because we have moved away from what God has ordained, the family!]

“By the year 2000 we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential, not God” - *Gloria Steinem, editor of ‘MS’ magazine.*

[I think we have achieved that, and it is not for our own good. Look at our society and we have lost respect, we have lost hope, we are lost!]

“We can’t destroy the inequities between men and women until we destroy marriage.” -  
- [Robin Morgan, *“Sisterhood Is Powerful,”* (ed), 1970, p. 537]

[That is just foolishness and it is right out of Genesis and the curse – “**... Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.**” The battle of the sexes and that is not what God desires of us. He does not want us lording over each other!]

“The most merciful thing a large family can do to one of its infant members is to kill it” - Margaret Sanger, *founder of Planned Parenthood, in Women and the New Rage, p.67*

[So murdering your children is the answer. And please understand that Margaret Sanger was an unapologetic racist who openly discouraged blacks from having children. And you can be upset with me on this but you look at where abortion clinics are set up and they are predominately and disproportionately in high black population areas! Why? Because she was a racist and her ideas are still being promoted! When we resort to murdering our children in the womb, the next step is to murder them out of the womb!]

“Marriage has existed for the benefit of men; and has been a legally sanctioned method of control over women . . . We must work to destroy it. The end of the institution of marriage is a necessary condition for the liberation of women. Therefore it is important for us to encourage women to leave their husbands and not to live individually with men.” - *The Declaration of Feminism, November 1971*

[I guess you would have to ask my wife on that one if marriage is just a benefit for me or it is for her as well! I think a marriage that is based in the Word of God and submitted to God sees both parties benefiting! I am blessed to be married to Julie and I think she would say the same, that she is blessed being married to me. That is how it should be and yet, the answer to their problems is to get rid of the institution of marriage? No, turn to God, repent of your sins is the answer!]

“Only when manhood is dead - and it will perish when ravaged femininity no longer sustains it - only then will we know what it is to be free.” - [Andrea Dworkin. *“The Root Cause,”* speech, 26 Sept. 1975, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge (published in *Our Blood, ch. 9, 1976*).]

[I am always amazed at people who are looking for freedom and in the end, they are in bondage! Paul tells us in II Corinthians 3:16-17, “**Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**” You see, when a person turns to the Lord that is where they find freedom, liberty. In Galatians 5:1 Paul warns us not to go back to that bondage as he wrote, “**Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**” You will never find true freedom apart from the Lord!]

“The care of children . . . is infinitely better left to the best trained practitioners of both sexes who have chosen it as a vocation . . . [This] would further undermine family structure while contributing to the freedom of women.” - *Kate Millet, Sexual Politics 178-179*

[As I read this it would seem that the goal is not for the betterment of children but for the destruction of the family! God says it is the family, not the government, not the community that is to raise the family. It is not that they can't learn from others, but it is in the home that children are trained to live godly lives!]

“In order to raise children with equality, we must take them away from families and communally raise them.” - *Dr. Mary Jo Bane, feminist and assistant professor of education at Wellesley College and associate director of the school's Center for Research on Woman*

[In other words, they don't want our children to be taught the things of God so they will train them outside the home with their worldly ideas! May that not happen!]

“Life in this society being, at best, an utter bore and no aspect of society being at all relevant to women, there remains to civic-minded, responsible, thrill-seeking females only to overthrow the government, eliminate the money system, institute complete automation, and destroy the male sex.” - *Valerie Solana, SCUM Manifesto (Society for Cutting Up Men.)*

[When you read the organization that she is the head of, what more needs to be said. You see, people are self-centered today and they only want what they want and when they want it. But God designed the family and if you destroy that you are not going to improve your life, you will destroy it, mess it up!]

“God is going to change. We women . . . will change the world so much that He won't fit anymore.” - *Naomi Goldenberg, Changing of the Gods: Feminism and the End of Traditional Religions (Quoted at beginning of From Father God to Mother Earth)*

[Let me just say this, God is not going to change. He will never change. It is not about God fitting into what we want, it is truly about us turning from our wicked ways and receiving Him into our lives as Lord and Savior. And in the end, apart from Christ, you won't fit in anymore and thus, turn to Him!]

- <https://bit.ly/2ZZgLkM>

If we want this nation back, if we want to remove all the confusion that is out there in the homes, we need to get back to the Word of God and obey what He has told us. Truth will remove the confusion and it will set you free!

But understand, this attack on the family, this attack on the church, this attack on society and the government will continue on, but we have the power in Christ to stand strong in these days we are living in and be a witness for Jesus Christ. May we do so!

And I don't want to close here because I think there is something else that is really important and that is what Nehemiah told his people who were discouraged by the work before them, the mocking that the enemy was doing, and he wanted to encourage them.

Thus, in Nehemiah 4:14 we are told, **“And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, ‘Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.’”**

Notice that Nehemiah tells them not to be afraid, but how can they not be afraid? ***“Remember the Lord!”*** he tells them! The Lord is ***GREAT*** and ***AWESOME***, and He will see you through all of this, don't give up.

And the work that he has called them to do is to fight for your people, your family. How important that is.

Don't give up, fight for them, pray for them, stand with them and teach them the things of God.

So, don't be afraid! Remember the Lord! And fight for your friends and family! How important that is.

We are in a battle, may we listen to those words Nehemiah and move forward, **“... ‘Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.’”**