Mother's Day
May 13, 1973
Rolling Meadows, Illinois

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IN NOMINE JESU

Colossians 3: 12 - 14: [Today's English Version]
YOU ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD; HE LOVED YOU AND CHOSE YOU FOR HIS OWN. THEREFORE, YOU MUST PUT ON COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, AND PATIENCE. BE HELPFUL TO ONE ANOGHTER, AND FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER, WHENEVER ANY OF YOU HAS A COMPLAINT AGAINST SOMEONE ELSE. YOU MUST FORGIVE EACH OTHER IN THE SAME WAYTHAT THE LORD HAS FORGIVEN YOU. AND TO ALL THESE ADD LOVE, WHICH BINDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER IN PERFECT UNITY.

Someone has said, "What's WRONG with the WORLD begins and ends with the FAMILY. As FAMILIES GO, so goes the WORLD." That puts QUITE a LOAD on the FAMILY. It is a LOAD THAT God intended the FAMILY to BEAR. In every CULTURE the FAMILY has ALWAYS been the most IMPORTANT SINGLE FACTOR in the PRESERVATION of HUMAN SOCIETY. And at the VERY HEART - the HUB - the CENTER of the FAMILY God has placed MOTHER.

There are times when I am home ALONE when the CHILDREN come home from SCHOOL. As they BURST through the DOOR, their 1st SHOUT is, "HEY, MOM!" And I reply, "HI." Usually they say, "WHERE'S MOM?" "She'll be HOME LATER," I answer. And they seem DISAPPOINTED. I ask, "Is there ANYTHING I can do for you?" "NO," says one of them, "I'll WAIT until ~~she~~ Mom gets home."

What does MOTHER HAVE that I DO NOT HAVE? Why do they think of HER FIRST? .....

.....Because she is MOTHER - THAT'S WHY! It isn't that my CHILDREN expect to find their mother at HOME and are SURPRISED to see ME. It is that they WANT to SEE their MOTHER - - - they LOOK for HER - - - because she does something for them NOBODY ELSE CAN DO - - - NOT EVEN I.

This is not to say that FATHERS are an UNNECESSARY COMMODITY. They simply have a DIFFERENT ROLE to play. And they are as IMPORTANT and NECESSARY in THEIR ROLE as MOTHERS ARE in theirs. And it takes ALL of these INGREDIENTS to make a FAMILY - - MOTHER, FATHER, and CHILDREN.

You are WELL AWARE, I am sure, of the DISINTEGRATION and DETERIORATION of HOMES in our day. A recent survey of homes in the United States indicates that about 25% of those HOMES can be classified as UNHAPPY. About 50% are just SO-SO. That leaves about 25% - - - which may be thought of as MORE or LESS HAPPY HOMES.

HOMES do NOT have to be UNHAPPY. "HOME IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT". If the PEOPLE in that HOME are BITTER, and GROUCHY, and RESENTFUL - - - that's the way the HOME

will be. The HOME itself is NOT the PROBLEM - - - the PEOPLE ARE.

In May of last year Life Magazine carried a story called, "VIOLENT SHOWDOWN OVER DRUGS BETWEEN FATHER AND SON." It was the NIGHTMARE STORY of a FATHER who loved his 17year old SON - - - but HATED what his son had BECOME. The story reached its TERRIBLE CLIMAX on a SUNDAY AFTERNOON "in a fine lemon-colored HOUSE on a Maple lined street hard in the MIDDLE of the AMERICAN DREAM."

The PARENTS were HARD-WORKING people. The father worked 10 hours on ONE JOB and at TIMES on a 2nd JOB. His WIFE also went out to WORK to help PAY the BILLS. The father COACHED the LITTLE LEAGUE baseball team. He was a COMMITTEE MEMBER of the BOY SCOUTS. Sometimes, when he came home, he found his son Richie STONED - - - RED-EYED and MUTE. "Jesus God in heaven, what's HAPPENING TO US?" the father cried! That is the only time in the whole ARTICLE that anything is MENTIONED of GOD or of CHRIST.

The boy had TROUBLES. He was SHY. He YEARNED for ACCEPTANCE. He started with MARIJUANA. His GRADES tumbled. Eventually he FAILED every SUBJECT. He became

a HEAVY USER of MARIJUANA and HASH. Then he turned to more POWERFUL DRUGS like SECONAL. 1st he BOUGHT DRUGS - - - then he SOLD DRUGS. He became a DEALER. Richie STOLE a CAR - was taken to FAMILY COURT - CURSED his TEACHERS and was EXPELLED from SCHOOL. There were FIGHTS and ARGUMENTS in the HOUSE. Richie and his PARENTS could NOT COMMUNICATE. They YELLED - SCREAMED - and SHOUTED THREATS at ONE ANOTHER.

The last PAINFUL SCENE took place on the CELLAR steps of the HOME on a SUNDAY AFTERNOON. CRAZED with DRUGS - the YOUTH Richie walked slowly down the STEPS. He had a STEAK KNIFE in his hand. The father was at the FOOT of the STEPS with a PISTOL in his HAND. The boy SHOUTED, "SHOOT! GO AHEAD, SHOOT!" The father SHOT. The BULLET entered his son's HEART. In his more thoughtful moments, the father would NOT have KILLED a SPIDER. And here he SHOT HIS SON.

A HAPPY HOME does not come about NATURALLY. It takes WORK - - HONEST-to-GOODNESS WORK! It takes HARD WORK! It takes HARD WORK on the part of PEOPLE who have FAITH. "HOME IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT."

TALKING to people of GOD who have FAITH in HIM because they KNOW JESUS CHRIST - TRUST JESUS CHRIST - and LOVE JESUS CHRIST, St. Paul said: "YOU ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD; HE LOVED YOU AND CHOSE YOU FOR HIS OWN. THEREFORE, YOU MUST PUT ON COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, and PATIENCE. Be HELPFUL to one another, and FORGIVE one another, WHENEVER ANY OF YOU HAS A COMPLAINT AGAINST SOMEONE ELSE. YOU MUST FORGIVE EACH OTHER IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE LORD HAS FORGIVEN YOU. AND TO ALL THESE ADD LOVE, WHICH BINDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER IN PERFECT UNITY."

THAT is what it TAKES to have a TRULY HAPPY HOME and FAMILY LIFE. How often we are GUILTY of HURTING the very ones we CARE ABOUT THE MOST. We do it WITHOUT THINKING. We NEED to THINK! - - and THAT TAKES WORK! It is IMPORTANT that CHILDREN LISTEN to their PARENTS - - and it is ALSO IMPORTANT that PARENTS LISTEN to their CHILDREN. That takes a LOT of COMPASSION - a LOT of KINDNESS - a LOT of HUMILITY - a LOT of GENTLENESS - and a GREAT DEAL of PATIENCE. It takes FORGIVENESS - - - and most of all LOVE!

It is like the LOVE of God HIMSELF. He ACCEPTS the UNACCEPTABLE. He LOVES the

UNLOVEABLE. He sends HIS SON to DIE for the REBELLIOUS. People DON'T want HIM - - - but He comes and DIES ANYWAY. That's what JESUS CHRIST was for the LOVE of GOD.

In JESUS CHRIST there is FORGIVENESS - - - REAL FORGIVENESS. GOD REALLY FORGIVES! For the sake of JESUS CHRIST He puts our SINS AWAY from HIM "AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST!" The fact is; "HE REMEMBERS THEM NO MORE!" So much does HE LOVE US!

The article about Richie and his FATHER ended up on a very PATHETIC NOTE: "When Richie's friends LOOKED at him in the casket, they were stunned to see that his BEARD had been SHAVED, his SIDE-BURNS TRIMMED and RAISED, and his HAIR NEATLY, FOREVER CUT." ..... "This is the WAY I wanted Richie to LOOK" said his FATHER. ..... "The FATHER AT LAST HAD HIS WAY," commented Life Magazine.

That is one way to do it. But there is a BETTER WAY - - - the way the APOSTLE talks about in our text. It is the WAY of COMPASSION - KINDNESS - HUMILITY - GENTLENESS - PATIENCE - FORGIVENESS - AND LOVE.

A fellow pastor asked his CONFIRMATION CLASS to answer this question: "What is the NICEST, FINEST, and BEST THING you can say about your PARENTS?" They answered without signing their NAMES.

Here is what some of them say: "My parents are GREAT! We all love God and are BELIEVERS in CHRIST OUR SAVIOR." Another one said: "We WORSHIP TOGETHER! We COMMUNICATE!" Still another: "My parents CARE about PEOPLE other than THEMSELVES." One boy said: "We all have a very STRONG LOVE for each other and no matter what HAPPENS, we ALL STICK TOGETHER."

Is that the way it is in YOUR FAMILY? I HOPE AND PRAY TO GOD IT IS. Amen///