

The Home as a fortress

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Introduction: No one wishes to stand outside and unprotected during a fierce storm.

- A. Our God knows and understands our frailties and our every need. **(Heb 4:16)**
 - 1. Because we trust in the living God He provides us with a shelter and refuge from the storms of life. **(2 Sam 22:2-4)**
 - 2. Our faith in God allows us to freely acknowledge our weakness and His might! **(Psa 144:2-4)**
- B. God has given us provisions to use that we may have this refuge.
 - 1. The local church is such a place. **(Heb 12:12-13)**
 - 2. The home as God designed it is such a place. **(Prov 31:10-12)**

I. The home is a place to build up our spirits

- A. God knows our need for companionship. **(Ecc 4:9-12)**
 - 1. We do not need just any kind of companionship! **(Prov 25:23-24)**
 - 2. The words we hear in our homes have an impact upon our spirits. **(Eph 4:29)**
- B. Companionship requires a spirit that will serve another's needs.
 - 1. You cannot have companionship without trust. **(Prov 31:11)**
 - a. How many additional hurts come when you cannot trust your mate!
 - b. How can one have a good marriage when they marry a dishonest person?
 - 2. Honor and Respect are needed to build another's spirit. **(Prov 31:28-31)**
 - a. Respect is a strong need of the man. **(Eph 5:33)**
 - b. How does one gain respect?
 - 3. Seeking understanding so as to serve another builds companionship. **(1 Pt 3:7)**
 - a. Companionship is based upon a common interest and a common sharing in serving another. Both are to give!
 - b. In time it is easy to demand your needs be met and neglect the other.

II. Why do some flee their fortress?

- A. Many leave their fortress because they are meeting their needs elsewhere.
 - 1. Some men choose to "live at work."
 - 2. Women can withdraw from the home by losing confidence in the husband and going into the work force.
 - 3. This choice may be done even when the other mate is doing all they can do. Some may have never had a fortress because they did not marry a Christian.
- B. What are the needs of the man? **(Eph 5:33)**
 - 1. He feels unloved because she doesn't **trust** him anymore.
"Deep inside every man there is a hero or a knight in shining armor. More than anything, he wants to succeed in serving and protecting the woman he loves. When he feels trusted, he is able to tap into this noble part of himself. He becomes more caring. When he doesn't feel trusted he loses some of his aliveness and energy, and after a while he can stop caring."
 - 2. He feels unloved because she doesn't **accept** him as he is.
 - 3. He feels taken for granted and unloved because she doesn't **appreciate** what he does.
 - 4. He feels unloved because he does not feel **admired**.

C. What are the needs of the woman? **(Eph 5:25-29)**

1. She feels unloved because he is not attentive or showing that he *cares*.
2. She feels unloved because he doesn't *understand her*.
3. She feels unloved because he doesn't *respect* her feelings.
4. She feels unloved because he is not *devoted* to her and doesn't honor her as special.

III. Rebuilding the walls of our fortress

A. We must be honest with our mates and ourselves. **(Eph 5:13-17)**

1. Many marriages are allowed to fall into this broken condition.
2. What are your weaknesses? Without consistent effort “gravity” will pull you back to these weaknesses. (“He is just like his father.”)
3. Honesty means honest communication. Many homes will punish the one who seeks to be honest.

“Men and women generally are unaware that they have different emotional needs. As a result they do not instinctively know how to support each other. Men typically give in relationships what men want, while women give what women want. Each mistakenly assumes that the other has the same needs and desires. As a result they both end up dissatisfied and resentful.”

B. We need to understand the power of our emotions. Consider depression.

1. An unreal view of the world and people. One creates their own reality.
2. They become ego centered. All things are viewed by how it relates to them.
3. There is a strong desire to withdraw. It is easy to write-off others.
4. It is easy to be sour and mistrustful of others.
5. One cannot let go of the past or truly forgive another. **(Eph 4:31-32)**
6. There are thoughts of suicide.
7. Reason cannot reach one in this state.

C. We need to understand and fight the wrong choices we have made.

1. Watch your spirit – some view criticism as their “spirituality” This negative spirit is fed and eventually consumes the marriage. **(Eph 5:13-15)**
 - a. That spirit is taught. What are you building in your mate?
 - b. That spirit will one day turn on you.
2. Others have given in to an “over committed life” that brings despair and guilt.

IV. One fallen fortress leads to another

A. The first to fall will be our children. **(Eph 6:4)**

1. Sadly they will often continue the family “traditions.”
2. Do you really know what it takes to build faith?
3. Some can affect their children *after* they have left the home.

B. The church will often be affected by these fallen fortresses. **(Heb 12:14-15)**

1. When a man has no respect in the home he often will turn to pride to build himself up. This is an empty effort that will bring strife. **(1 Tim 6:3-4)**
2. How many have destroyed their children and then brought their “wisdom” to solve church problems. **(Jas 3:13-18)**

Conclusion: Is there a fortress where you live? **(Psa 31:1-3)**