

## HOMES THAT WITHHOLD THE BLESSING

Most often those who are struggling with problems don't realize why they are (a) insecure, (b) hostile, (c) God's perspective is that your children are valuable and worth this investment. You will experience *profound* fulfillment as that child becomes a man or woman of God. withdrawn, (d) workaholics. Usually their parents did not know how to bless their children.

But if these hurtful patterns from the past are not broken, they will be repeated in the next generation, as the Bible says. Only when we can honestly look at our past are we free to "leave" and "cleave."

Five bad examples of homes withholding blessing are:

1. Favoritism - both the favored one and the ignored one suffer.
2. Acceptance and Approval always just out of reach. Result: Workaholics or underachievers.
3. Strings Attached. Child manipulated to meet parents selfish demands. Extreme "work-for-love." Make child feel guilty, resentful
4. Expectations with punishment if not lived up to (a) social status, (b) money withdrawn, or (c) emotional withdrawal on purpose to punish or control.
5. Divorce, Desertion, Adoption. Child feels rejected and cheated, child longs for missing person and will seek acceptance in many ways, sometimes destructive.

Learning to Live even though you did not have the Blessing.

1. Must face the fact that you never had it. You can postpone facing that fact, BUT you can never avoid it. Christ offers no cover-ups, no denying a problem when there is one - "The Truth will make you free." (Jn. 8:32)

It is vitally important to be honest about your feelings regarding missing the blessing. It is the FIRST STEP toward *healing*. Then, seek counseling - like Bud Bryant.

2. Understand as much as you can about your parents' background, and in the majority of cases, parents who do not give the blessing did not receive it themselves, so they don't know how to give it. Some don't even recognize they *should* give it, or even *what it is* - e.g., English nobility - distant, cold, proper manners, cordial - but no *meaningful* touching - nanny touched.

If you feel you received a curse, you have to move past that - e.g., Helen (physical abuse, sexual abuse).

3. You can be healed. (Isa. 61:1-3, Heb. 13:5,6)
  - a. accept God's blessing

- b. experience it in the family of God - one that is a *true Body of Christ*, and does give all five elements of the Blessing.
- c. Then, give it to others - especially to those who hurt you - in the present and in the past (e.g., parents).

#### HONOR PARENTS.

1. Extreme Case: (Helen - abused). Her action affected her *relationship with the Lord, and her relationship with her father, and her own emotional and spiritual life.*

The alternative: Your own life dried up by holding onto bitterness and resentment, which destroys yourself and depletes strength and health.

#### 2. WHAT ABOUT ORDINARY PARENTS?

We need the reassurance of spoken words and contact.

We become more insecure with age.

We remember with guilt all our failures.

We tend to dwell on the past with nostalgia.

#### 3. HOW TO HELP US GROW OLD GRACEFULLY:

*Assure us of the important role we played in your lives and that you want us to continue being a part of your lives.*

Instead of *reminding us of our failures* (we remember them well) ask advice and *seek our opinion* about you and your children. Wisdom is a mark of age. We learned a lot through the years -

(a) I always asked Mom and Dad for their *advice*.

(b) I shared with them my kinds' problems.

(c) I sought their help, and

(d) depended on their prayers.

(e) I also affirmed them constantly - face to face and to my children.

(f) I used them as role models.

They both grew old gracefully - no bitterness or loneliness. I miss them *terribly*. I thank God for my blessing and for a godly, consistent, loving home.