



The Christ-Centered Home: "Sacred Households"

September 22, 2019, Pastor Nick Cash

(Joshua 24:15, Numbers 25:1-13)

Last week, in our series: ***The Christ-centered Home***, we explored what it means to be "Missional Households." Today we focus on what it means to be "Sacred Households."

As the people of Israel were entering the Promised Land, Joshua charged them to "choose this day whom you will serve. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

Who or what is my household "serving" right now?

(Every home will serve something/someone. We must CHOOSE to serve the Lord.)

*** Whoever or whatever my home "serves" will:**

- Influence how we spend our TIME and MONEY
- Get PRIORITIZED over other things
- Guide my DECISION-MAKING
- Decide my VALUES. Be my GOD!

*** What would it mean for my household to "serve the Lord"? To be devoted to the Lord?**

- * Number 25:1-13 – is a difficult story that illustrates the **principle** of "*being zealous for the Lord*". Phineas sees rebellious, defiant behavior invading his people (his household), and he chooses to confront this, take action, and be *zealous for the honor of the Lord*.
- * To understand the significance of this difficult story, we must understand the horrendous nature of the Moabite's debased worship of the false bull-god, Baal Peor.
- * They regularly committed obscene acts of sexual immorality as part of their worship. This often produced unwanted pregnancies that the people would (*conveniently*) offer as sacrifices to their bull-god.
- * The Moabite women enticed the Israelite men into these immoral sexual practices, and God's Holy anger (understandably) "burned against them".
- * When an Israelite man deliberately spurns the repentance of his people before Yahweh, Phineas literally "executes" holy judgment on this defiant one (and the woman with him). God honors Phineas for his holy zeal, and decides to stop the punitive plague of his people.
- * The point here is NOT that we should take violent action against sinners, but that we should be deliberate in confronting the sin that can so easily invade our households. We must be zealous for God's honor in our own homes. No one can do this for us; it's **our** responsibility.

* **We must determine what we will or won't allow into our homes. What:**

Media, Internet, TV. Movies, Books, Magazines. Attitudes, Words, Behaviors.

* We must consider, establish, and maintain standards in our homes that honor the Lord.

Consider:

1. Core verses that lay a foundation for such standards and boundaries
2. Formulating a prayer focused on dedicating your home to God's glory.
3. Discuss *together* such standards/boundaries, regularly evaluating your "zeal."