

## Reconstructing Your Family Heritage

### Introduction:

The definition for the word “house” is “a building for human habitation, especially one that is lived in by a family or small group of people.” It is essentially a building.

Is there a difference between a house and a home?

When we think of a “house,” we think of that physical structure that is made up of concrete, studs for the walls, roof trusses, drywall, siding, doors, and shingles.

But when we think of a “home,” that word gives a sense of something much more personal. It involves the people within the structure.

So what are the building blocks of a home? What makes up a home? Is it bricks and mortar? No ... it's things like love, joy, patience, kindness, trust, and respect.

We would love to have homes where there is family togetherness, family prayer time, family Bible reading time, family game time. Homes in which we are encouraged by the Lord and seek to encourage one another.

Does having “spiritual” things on the walls of the “house” mean that the Spirit of God is evident in the “home?”

If God's truth is not in your **heart**, it will never be in your home.  
Deuteronomy 6

We can teach what we know, but we will only reproduce who we **are**.

Each of us has some sort of family heritage. Something needed to change in my family heritage in this area. I needed to reconstruct the “home.”

The goal is not simply the transfer of information, but the goal is the **transformation** of lives.

This is possible if you are willing to concede to Christ, let Him take control, let Him lay the new foundation for your home.

*“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*  
1 Corinthians 3:11

Allow Him to build the new structure of your home.

**Here are a few principles for reconstructing your “home” – your family heritage:**

**1. Look forward, not backward. Philippians 3:13**

You cannot do anything about your past. You can't do anything to change your past, so why dwell on it? The past is just that, the past. It is history.

We are to walk into the future by **faith**.

**2. Look ahead with boldness, not fear.**

The one thing that will hold most of us back from reconstructing our family's spiritual heritage is fear. Maybe it's fear of failure due to the past. Maybe it's because of some painful past family experiences. Maybe it's a different kind of fear of failure. Fear of not knowing what to do and how to do it, how to pray with your family or how to lead a family devotion. You need to simply realize the truth of God's Word.

*“For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and a sound mind.”* 2 Timothy 1:7

If you are feeling fear, it is not from God.

You see, we are not called to be bold in our own human strength. You simply need to rest in the Lord and in His power that works in you.  
Ephesians 3:20, 6:10; Philippians 2:13

**3. Look toward your goal, not at the obstacles.**

When we attempt to reconstruct our spiritual heritage, will there be challenges along the way? Of course.

I think we actually create ourselves some of the challenges that we face. Thankfully, the challenges we create on our own are also within our control

to deconstruct. It starts with having the right thinking that will produce the right actions. (Philippians 4:8-9) God's truth should change our thinking and our living.

Of course, some challenges we face are beyond our control.  
John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 1

I'm sure all of us can testify to encountering tough times, just things we didn't expect to happen, things that have deterred us from building up our families in Christ.

But what should we do? Keep our eyes on Christ.  
(Matthew 14:30-31) We can't focus and dwell on the circumstances that surround us, including past wounds that we carry into the present – they will sink us. We have to walk into the future by faith, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ.

#### **4. Look at learning experiences as opportunities for growth.**

Experience is a great teacher. Nobody gets it right the first time. Experience has a way of stretching you in areas that you need stretching. That's how we grow and improve. Romans 5

*“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”* Romans 5:3-5

#### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, our family heritage needed **reconstruction**. Reconstructing your family heritage takes time. It takes making the right choices. It is possible with faith in Christ. We pressed forward, without fear and without excuses, and saw Christ renovate our “home.”

Allow Him to build the new structure of your home.