

## When Problems Arise In The Home

by John Isaac Edwards

Most families encounter problems of some sort, at one time or another. Home problems date back to the beginning. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and problems came (Gen. 2:16-17; ch. 3). Their son, Cain, “...rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him” (Gen. 4:8). Can you imagine? This writing explores *When Problems Arise In The Home*:

1) *When Sin Is Committed.* God told the first husband and wife, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:16-17). Genesis chapter three finds sin being committed as Eve “...took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” (Gen. 3:6). Many troubles arose as a result of “...transgression of the law” (1 Jn. 3:4). James said, “...when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (Jas. 1:15). This is what took place in the home at the beginning. Anytime sin is committed it brings difficulties and problems! “...the way of transgressors is hard” (Prov. 13:15).

2) *When People Play The Blame Game.* Many engage in “buck-passing” and “blame-shifting,” pointing the finger at everybody and everything but themselves, rather than admitting personal responsibility for their sins! This is nothing new! The man said, “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat” (Gen. 3:12). The woman said, “The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat” (Gen. 3:13). Adam blamed Eve, his wife, and indicted God in the process! And Eve blamed the devil! The wise man said, “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Prov. 28:13). Like David who said, “I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid....” (Ps. 32:5), we need to own up to our shortcomings with the admission, “I have sinned” (Lk. 15:21).

3) *When Folks Get Out Of Their Place.* God told the woman, “...thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee” (Gen. 3:16). Unto Adam He said, “Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded

thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it...” (Gen. 3:17). There are roles God has assigned to the man as husband and the woman as wife. 1 Corinthians 11:3 teaches, “...the head of the woman is the man...” Ephesian Christians were taught, “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...” (Eph. 5:22-23). Children have been given responsibility, “...obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Eph. 6:1-3). When we get this out of kilter, we are going to run into problems!

4) *When There Are Those Not Walking By Faith.* Hebrews 11:4 gives insight into the problem that arose in Genesis 4 concerning Cain and Abel: “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.” Abel offered by faith! “...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).

Thus, Abel acted according to the word of God — he did what God said do! Paul informed the Corinthians, “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7). When we walk by sight, rather than by faith, there are going to be problems!

5) **When Wrath Is Not Put Away.** Genesis 4 reports, “...Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell” (v. 5). He let his extreme anger get the best of him — it led him to murder! Many situations would be improved if one would but learn and practice these principles: **Proverbs 15:1**, “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” **Ephesians 4:26**, “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” **Ephesians 4:31-32**, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” **Ephesians 6:4**, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and

admonition of the Lord.” **Colossians 3:8**, “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.” **James 1:19-20**, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” A failure to apply these truths will result in your home being like one big pressure-cooker — and then she blows!

6) **When There’s A Lack Of Love.** 1 John 3:11-12 records, “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. ...” There is no substitute for love! “...love covereth all sins” (Prov. 10:12). Husbands are instructed, “... love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it... So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies... let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself...” (Eph. 5:25-33). Such causes him to “nourish”

and “cherish” her (Eph. 5:29)! Women are taught, “...to love their husbands, to love their children” (Titus 2:4). Read the love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, and in place of the word “charity” or “love” in verses 4-8, see if we can put our name there! Do these qualities describe us? Love is called “... the bond of perfectness” (Col. 3:14). It is the adhesive that holds the home together!

7) **When Works Are Evil.** 1 John 3:12 continues, “...And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.” There is good and evil in this world, and God’s word is the standard of such. We must have our “...senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:14). Then, “...eschew evil, and do good...” (1 Pet. 3:11). “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34). It begins at home!

When problems come, the solution is the reverse of the cause!

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