



DATE	January 13, 2019
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Cultivating a Godly Home
SERIES	When we envision a dream home, we think of a luxurious house featuring all the latest trends. But a house doesn't make a home. What if the ideal home isn't one with rich with features, but rich in godliness? How do we make our godly dream homes a reality?

When we envision a dream home, we think of a luxurious house featuring all the latest trends. But a house doesn't make a home. What if the ideal home isn't one with rich with features, but rich in godliness? How do we make our godly dream homes a reality?

As Christ followers we are not consumers, but contributors.

- If you were to envision your actual dream home, what features would it include? If you were to envision what God has in mind for your spiritual dream home, what would it include?
- Do you have a strong opinion on where you would place your dream home geographically? Discuss with your group — how much does the location of your home matter to your well-being?
- Pastor David asked us to look closer at Matthew 5-7. During his sermon on the mount Jesus spoke of the foolish builder being concerned with appearance, while the wise builder is concerned about legacy. Would you consider yourself concerned with appearance or legacy? In what ways?
- Metaphorically, Pastor Smith spoke about the foundation upon which houses can be built. As you look around your neighborhood or extended family, what is the foundation you most often see as the basis for building a family?
- Consider how many homes and families are built on the idea of being successful consumers and how fundamental this idea is to the American economy. What specifically would change in Christian homes if contributing became more important?
- What thoughts and observations do you have regarding, “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” (Proverbs. 22:6)? Have you, or people you know well, discussed examples or counter-examples of this verse?

Start by grasping that we have tons of influence, but no control.

- How much struggle have you had with the understanding the power and limits of influence versus control in family life? Why is it so hard to control others and so hard to settle for merely influencing others, even when we feel we have a responsibility for outcomes?

- What can we do in our communities to cultivate Godly community? How can you apply what you do in your home to your community?
- How can family members be encouraged and trained to be “carriers of light”, maintain a high bar for Godly living, showing God’s love to others, more generosity, or becoming a force of prayer?
- One of the most difficult topics mentioned in the message was self-examination. What are the ways we can engage prayerfully with God to see better who we are in His plan?

Next week, we will begin exploring the first of six different “elements” of a godly home. We’ll discuss the importance of being a consistent example, valuing character over performance, and picking battles wisely in our relationships. Until then, ask yourself — what do you think are the major elements of a godly home?