

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

Unedited Transcript

Paul H. Dixon:

Today, we take up a very important section on the home. In fact, I suppose in many respects, it has to be one of the most important sections when we start thinking about God's place in the home. We've looked at God's purpose for the home and we looked at God's plan for the home, and now we're going to see God's place in the home. I think we have to recognize this, though, that it all fits together. That God can't have his place in the home unless we're fulfilling his purpose, and God can't have his place in the home unless the very [inaudible 00:00:34] that home are going about doing his plan. What we're going to be talking about today relative to spiritual aspects of the home is very important, but we can't get the idea that we just mechanically implement these things, and therefore, we have a Christian home. That's not so.

Paul H. Dixon:

I want to begin by turning to the book of Nehemiah 3, and to share with you a passage that has been a challenge to me. The third chapter of the book of Nehemiah. I love the book of Nehemiah. It's been a long time since I've preached it, but I have a series on the book of Nehemiah relative to revival. When you get into this book, you find out that God has raised up Nehemiah to rebuild the Wall of Jerusalem. In the third chapter of the book of Nehemiah, they're building the wall. I want you to notice what it says in Nehemiah 3:10. It gives you, as you go down the chapter, where everyone who's working on the wall is doing his work. For instance, one is responsible for building one section of the wall, another's responsible for building another. And notice, "Next unto them repaired Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, even over against his house." You might want to underline that. This man was working on the wall even over against his house.

Paul H. Dixon:

Look, if you will, at the 23rd verse. "After him repaired Benjamin and Hashub over against their house." Down towards the end of the verse, "After him repaired Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah by his house." Again, the 29th verse, "After them repaired Zadok the son of Immer over against his house." Verse 30, "After him repaired Hananiah the son of Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, another piece. After him repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah over against his chamber." The word for chamber means over against his apartment. Now, the point is that these men were concerned as they rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem to, first of all, build the wall around their homes.

Paul H. Dixon:

I think there's some people today so concerned about, for instance, making sure the walls of America do not go crumbling down that they're out in their patriotic meetings and everything trying to keep America from falling, while all the time the wall around their house is crumbling to the ground. I think in the same way, many of us, we're concerned about the church and all the work of the church. We get concerned about rebuilding the walls around the church and we allow the walls around our home to go down. We've got to put God in his proper place in our homes so that we, first of all, strengthen the home. It goes right back to where we started on the first day, on Tuesday. Society and the church are dependent upon the home.

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God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

Now, I think it's interesting to notice the place that worship had with the families in the Bible. One of my favorite verses that has to do with family worship is found in Genesis 18:19. The 18th chapter of the book of Genesis, the 19th verse tells us about Abraham. This man of faith, this man that God made so many great promises to and blessed him so extensively and used him so wonderfully, this favorite of the Jews. God says beginning with verse 17, "The Lord said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?'" Now, God is going to tell us why he made the promises to Abraham about becoming a great mighty nation, why he's using Abraham in that respect. "'For I know him. That he will command his children and his household after him. And they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he had spoken of him.'"

Paul H. Dixon:

In other words, God said, "The reason I'm going to bless Abraham is because of the way he runs his house. Because he's put me in my proper place in his home, therefore, I am going to give him a great blessing." I realize that there's a great truth here dispensationally regarding the nation of Israel when we look at this, but I think there's a practical application for all of us. If God said I'll bless Abraham because of the way he runs his household, I'm sure that God will bless any of us if we allow the Lord to run and reign in our homes.

Paul H. Dixon:

Let's look at someone else, if you would. In Joshua chapter 24:15, Joshua stands before the people gives an ultimatum. He says, "If it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose ye this day whom ye will serve, whether the gods which your father served that were on the other side of the flood or the gods of the Amorites and whose land ye dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15. Isn't that great? Joshua says, "I've made the decision. We in our household are going to serve the Lord. We're going to worship the Lord. We're going to put the Lord first." I believe any of us who will do the same thing will have the blessing that Joshua had.

Paul H. Dixon:

One more Old Testament passage to give us an example of the place that these men had for God in their homes. The book of Job 1. Job 1:5. "And it was so when the days of their feasting were gone about that Job sent and sanctified them. And he rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, 'It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed in their hearts.' Thus did Job continually." I like that. Thus did job continually. He continually called his family to prayer, continually called his family to think upon the things of God, and was concerned about what sins they might have committed, and availed themselves of the sacrifice that were there. I would that we too would have a time in our families where we do the same.

Paul H. Dixon:

One more passage that doesn't give us an example, but rather an admonition. The book of Deuteronomy 6. Deuteronomy 6:6-7. "And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart. Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest us down, and when thou risest up." Isn't that good? Deuteronomy 6:6-7. He says, "I'm giving you the words of God. I want you to command them and teach them to your children, and I want you to talk about them when you're sitting down, I want

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

you to talk about them when you're walking, and I want you to talk about them when you're at ease and when you're on the bed. I don't care what you're doing. I want you to talk about my Word."

Paul H. Dixon:

Sometimes we have the idea that if we have our family altar and we have our 5 or 10 minutes or 15 minutes that, well, okay, we've got a Christian home and so we've done our bit. Just like our devotions. We read a little bit of scripture and say, well, now I'm spiritual. Thank God for the place devotions have and thank God for the place a family altar can have. But Moses is saying here we ought to apply these principles all during the day. We ought to avail ourselves of every opportunity to teach our children the things of God.

Paul H. Dixon:

I want to share with you some practical things about how we can now put Christ in his proper place in the home. I think number one, we put Christ in his home and teach Christ to our children by example. Children mimic adults. I always get a kick out of after every World Series. There's always some fellow who has an unusual batting stance. Strangely enough, if that guy is a good hitter, invariably, if you could go out to the Little League ballparks the same day of the World Series game or even the next week, you'd see more little kids standing up there trying to stand exactly like Pete Rose was standing there, or exactly like Carl Yastrzemski or whoever it might be, because they're mimickers. If we live consistent Christian lives, our kids are going to mimic that. They're going to see it. They're going to begin to assimilate it into theirs.

Paul H. Dixon:

I believe we ought to teach them faithfulness. I believe we ought to teach them faithfulness to church. We ought to teach it by the way that we go to church. I believe we ought to be there Sunday morning and Sunday night and Wednesday night and every revival night and every Bible conference night and every night of a missionary conference. It begins to come through to our kids that, hey, this is important to mom and dad.

Paul H. Dixon:

Secondly, they should not be allowed to miss for some Little League ball game or because they want to go bowling or because they want to study. I believe that we're teaching them the principles of the Word of God by demanding that they be in God's house.

Paul H. Dixon:

Secondly, I believe that we ought to teach them by example with our own devotional life. Thank God for the kid who's able to walk in on his mom and dad every once in a while praying together. Thank God for the kid who's able to get up early and find his dad on his knees committing the day to God. For the kid who's able to see a mother who, perhaps even in the middle of the day, is praying or reading her Bible. The kid begins to realize, hey, this is important to mom and dad. If they need this, I need this. I personally believe, too, we ought to teach them how to have devotions. We ought to teach them how to pray. I think it's good early to begin getting them to read through the Bible.

Paul H. Dixon:

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

Something that appalled me. I was at a camp last year. It was a senior high camp. I suppose there are about 200 kids there from some of the finest churches in the state of Michigan. I asked this question, "How many of you have ever read your Bible all the way through?" Would you believe about 10 out of 200? I said, "How many of you have ever read your New Testament all the way through?" Maybe 20 out of 200. I had to begin asking myself, hey, these are good churches these kids are coming... They're good preachers. They preach the Word. But what in the world are we doing in our churches and what are we doing in our homes if kids can get to be 16, 17, 18 years old, some of them raised in Christianity, and still haven't even read all the way through the Bible? That certainly would seem to me to be elementary. I think that as soon as our children can read, we ought to get them on some kind of a plan where they read through the Bible every year.

Paul H. Dixon:

I have some problems with the Living Bible. I think we ought to explain to people that the Living Bible is not a translation, it's a paraphrase. I think we need to explain to them that there's some pretty coarse things within it. Yet I think that there's some value in the kid reading through the living Bible. He may have a tough time with the King James. I'm certainly for the King James and the NASB and so forth. But I think that to get them started and something like that will help them to get familiar, at least with some of the facts. The more they go through it, the more they at least know what it's all about. So encourage them. I think it's even good for children to demand of them. Some may not appreciate this, but I think there's a time when you have to demand. I think you should say, "Well, now look. I'm going to check up on you every once in a while to make sure that you're reading through, and you are to read through your Bible this year." That's all there is to it. I think that's good.

Paul H. Dixon:

Then I think it's also good to teach them respect for their pastor. One of the biggest mistakes that's being made in Christian homes is for the kids to come home and find their mom and dads criticizing the pastor. There's not going to be any perfect pastor. There's not going to be any pastor that is going to not make some mistakes or is going to fit us exactly. You may think he ought to be more evangelistic or somebody else may think he ought to be deeper, or somebody think he ought to not preach quite so loud and there'll be somebody else who think he ought to preach louder. You know how that goes. But don't ever criticize a pastor. Don't ever sit around, especially in front of those kids, and say anything derogatory about a pastor.

Paul H. Dixon:

You uplift that pastor. You let them see this image that you appreciate his ministry. You teach them to respect the pastor and I'll guarantee you, you'll go a long way to building up their confidence in what he has to say as he handles the Word of God. I believe this is the principle that has to be in our home, to teach the proper respect for the man who shares with us God's Word.

Paul H. Dixon:

Then of course, just in an example, in our relationship to the Lord as well. They ought learn early that Christ dispersed in our lives and first in our homes. They ought to be able to look at mom and dad and say, that's the way it is. We were talking at the breakfast table this morning. It's sad but true that your finest Christians generally do not come from Christian homes. The finest Christians come from unsaved homes.

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, you evaluate. This is a national statistic. I can take you into church after church where I'm in. I go into a church and I say, "Hey, how many of you teenagers have any unsaved parents?" And if there are 15, 20 kids there, they all look around and nobody raises his hand, I'll tell you, that's a dead youth group. Mark it down. I don't even have to be around them. They are deadlier than 4:00 if they don't have any kids with unsaved parents because they've just told me that they aren't doing any evangelism. They've all been raised in the church, they're satisfied with their little group. They're all probably carnal and they're just not getting out. At least they're not getting any new blood in there. It's a dead youth group. There has to be that.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, the reason I feel that we have so many kids coming from Christian homes who do not have strong convictions and who are not really sold out to the Lord is there's a breakdown in that home someplace. A kid who comes from an unsaved home doesn't expect anything spiritually from his parents. But you are Christians, and when you get married and marry another Christian, your kids are going to expect something from you. If you don't give them to, if you're totally inconsistent in your Christian life, don't expect that your kids are ever going to amount to much for God. There are exceptions because of the grace of God, but it certainly is the exception, not the rule. The point is you have got to be an example and you've got to be consistent if there's any hope for your child going on and having a useful life for Christ.

Paul H. Dixon:

Then I think we ought to also provide good music. We talk about the problems with rock and roll. I believe that rock and roll is not only of the devil, but for the birds. I believe we ought to teach our children early. I think if you teach them early what you expect and what you appreciate and what the Word of God has to say and biblical principles, it's not going to be the battle if you wait until they're a teenager and suddenly decide I'm going to teach them what's wrong with this. Another thing is let's substitute good music. You can develop an ear for music and teach them the value of good music so that they appreciate it in contrast to the music of the world.

Paul H. Dixon:

The same thing is true of books. I think we ought to encourage our kids to read and we ought to provide good reading materials. There's plenty... I shouldn't say plenty. There are some things on the market for children to read. I think that there's a great need for some new people to be raised up to do some writing for children. In many ways, I don't think there's enough. I don't think all that there is available is adequate. I think also, there's a great deal that could be done in writing for teenagers. There are not really that many good series or books written for teenagers today. But at any rate, what there is, make it available. Also, as we suggested, get periodicals not only for yourself, but also for your home. This will help in putting Christ in his proper place in the home.

Paul H. Dixon:

I want to talk to you for a few minutes about this matter of how to have a family altar. There's not any stereotype thing. In fact, one of the things I have down here is vary your family worship. Make it different. Make it exciting. There's nothing spiritual about making something long and boring, right? I think we ought to work at this. How are we going to do it?

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

Paul H. Dixon:

I remember when Scott was small, I forget the time span and so on, but the thing that he really appreciated is when we could dramatize Bible stories. We'd have a great time. He'd be David and I'd be Goliath, you see. We'd go out in the middle of the living... This is our family altar for the night. He's putting his stone in the sling. I don't know whether he was two years old or three. Not a real stone, now, but make believe. He'd start swinging and he'd hit me in the forehead and I'd fall down, and he'd come and cut my head off and everything. But we'd play out these games. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace and Daniel in the den of lions. And so he got acquainted with these stories early as we just dramatized these things. I think you can do this with children.

Paul H. Dixon:

Another thing I found, I think you'll find children are different. And of course, it depends on how many children you have which you can do and so on. Scott really enjoyed question books early. He was coming up with questions like, how come there are black people and white people? Where did they start? Well, I'm not really the brightest guy, and he's coming up with some questions like, where did the cave... What about this? The cave man and Adam and Eve, how does it all fit in? So I got all these books in my library that are question and answer books written by good men, Pett and Gill and John R. Rice and Little and some others. And so I just go and pull them down, and I'd give one to Pat and I take one, and then when Scott was able to read, I'd give him one, and we'd look up the question. And if a man answered it, we'd see what Pett and Gill had to say and Scott would read what the other person had to say, and we'd go over these questions.

Paul H. Dixon:

The other day, right now, our present plan is we are trying to read through the whole Bible together from beginning to end. We have been in Leviticus and Numbers, and some of it is slow. It's not the most exciting sections in there. And again, we're doing it in the Living Bible to try and see if he can't understand it a little bit better. So I just asked him, especially when I was preparing this for y'all, it made me think again. I said, "Scott, is this boring to you?" He said, "No." He says, "It's not boring." I said, "Well," I said, "why isn't it boring?" He said, "Well, it's not boring because I get to ask questions."

Paul H. Dixon:

There's some personal things that I wouldn't care to share with you, but I would just say this. And of course, when I'm gone, Pat's going through it with him. We had some sections in there that presented some questions to his mind that he was able to ask that I'm so glad he asked. He brought up some things, because we were going through the scriptures, that I haven't had to bring up to him. We just hit it in the Word of God. And he says, "I like it when I can ask questions as we work through the scriptures." He's honest. He would've told me if it was a drag, if it were boring. But the point is, I think we need to bury this thing, and we need to work on different things and see what works in your family. I don't care what John R. Rice does or what Howard Hendricks does or what anybody... What works in your family, that's the important thing.

Paul H. Dixon:

There's no sacred thing about what time you're going to have it. Some people have it right after breakfast, some people have it right after supper, some people have it before they go to bed at night. I think you should try to be as consistent as possible, but many times with our varied schedules, you may

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

have to have it one time one day and one time another day. But the important thing is at least try to be consistent in having a time together as a family when you're gathering around the Word of God. Again, don't make it long. You may want to have some time when you may... Children like to use a Bible storybook. My only warning is with some of these Bible storybooks, the theology and some of them is atrocious. And so check it out and find out how good they are.

Paul H. Dixon:

Another thing you might want to do is use something like Dr. DeHaan's Daily Bread, where you have some scripture reading and then read the comments. Of course, when they get old enough where they can read, let the kids read and share in this time. You might want to start a prayer list where you're praying together as a family, where you can put the requests down on one side and where you can put the answer on the other side. You might want to sing together. You might want to read some hymns together. Boy, some of these great old hymns have such truth in them. We probably are neglectful of some of these old hymns in our church and in our families, and we ought to get to know them.

Paul H. Dixon:

Matthew Henry said that practically all of the notes he has in his commentary, in Matthew Henry's, an excellent set of commentaries. I think it's about six volumes. He said, "I took almost all these notes at my father's knee as he taught me the Word of God." He said, "He would gather us together as a family, and he would teach us the Word of God and made us take notes." And he said, "That's Matthew Henry's commentary." That's an amazing thing. We sure need to have more homes like that.

Paul H. Dixon:

I had a unique experience. Last year, I was in a meeting with a fellow by the name of Bill Rice. Bill Rice is in Richmond, Virginia, and he's the son-in-law of Dr. John R. Rice. Is everyone familiar with Dr. John R. Rice? Those who are, would you raise your hands? Those who know... Okay, just about everybody. Great man of God. He's in his 70s now and still going for the Lord. Bill Rice married John R. Rice's daughter. Again a Wong married a Wong and a Rice married a Rice. So where you got little Wongs, they've got a lot of Rice Krispies, I guess, running around there. I really appreciated Bill. He's a gracious fellow. Dr. Rice is famous for his daughters. He's famous for the kind of a family he's produced. They're just really great gals. I don't know them all, but everybody who knows them says that. I really picked her brain. For one reason, I just wanted to know about how they ran things in their home because I was interested in the Christian home.

Paul H. Dixon:

Secondly, because her dad was an evangelist, I wanted to know how he overcame some of the problems of the typical evangelist home. She said, "Paul, as I look back on all that we did, one of the things that meant so much to us was every morning after breakfast, we always got the Bible down and we started reading through the Bible." She said, "We read all the way through. We would start at Genesis and we'd work all the way through Revelation. When got through, we'd go back and start again." She said, "That's what we always did for family altar and we always did it after breakfast. And when daddy was gone, mama did it. Now, if we got up late, we missed school, but we didn't miss the family altar. If breakfast was slow getting on the table, we might be a half hour late to school, but we never missed our family altar time. That was just the most important time."

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

Paul H. Dixon:

She said, "When I went to school," and I think she attended Moody and Wheaton, she said, "I found that I went into these doctrine classes and I knew just about what the teacher was talking about all the time. And I started to evaluate, where did I get my training? Was it in church?" And she said, "It suddenly dawned on me that I got my training sitting there at that breakfast table as we worked our way through the scriptures as a family." She said, "We would generally read quite a sizable portion of the Word of God."

Paul H. Dixon:

Another thing that she mentioned, she said, "I got to thinking, when did my daddy or mama give me my sex education?" She said, "They never did sit us down and tell us about the birds and the bees. And all of a sudden, I realized that we got our sex education as we worked through the Word of God. Because when we would come to those sections that dealt with that, we would discuss it, and it was just normal. It was just so obvious because there it was, right in the Word of God. The problems with evolution and so forth, we dealt with that when we got in Genesis 1." This is great. This is what challenged me to start working through the scriptures... family worship and how to put Christ in his proper place. Like I said, they certainly aren't all inclusive and you can see what works in your family. But the important thing is we need to do all we can to have Christ in his proper place.

Paul H. Dixon:

Now, would you like to ask some questions? Let's first of all... Our time is limited. We have about 10 minutes. Would you like to... Let's first of all... Would you have any more questions about what we've discussed today? Anything I've said or any particular aspect of the home and honoring Christ in the home, about the family worship or other things? Any questions about that first of all? Yes.

Speaker 2:

[inaudible 00:28:17]

Paul H. Dixon:

Well, that's a good question. I think it depends on the child. I don't think I could say a certain age. Again, my philosophy, and I think your philosophy, changes. You can have great philosophies until you actually get into doing the job and the kids start getting older. But I've always said that the ideal thing is I hope that I can teach my son biblical principles through the course of his life. There are times when I will have to make decisions for him. Right now, I'm making just about all the decisions, and feel that's my responsibility. There's going to be a time as he's maturing and gets to be a teenager that I'm going to be able to give him some decisions of his own. Hopefully if we've laid the foundation, he's going to be making some wise decisions. I also have to recognize that he's going to make some wrong decisions, just like I made some. There's a learning experience not only in making right decisions, but there's also a learning experience in making wrong decisions.

Paul H. Dixon:

For instance, I'll give you an illustration. I'm not recommending this for anybody else. I'll just tell you what happened in one pastor's home. He said, "Paul," he said, "When my kid was a senior," he said, "he loved to play hockey." He said, "Man, could he play hockey. He was on the championship hockey team,"

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

he said, "there in our area. And all of a sudden, one of the big games for the state was to be played in Detroit on Sunday." So he said, "The kid came in and said, 'Dad, look. If I'm going to play in that game on Sunday afternoon, I'm going to have to miss church Sunday night.' And he said, 'I don't know what I'm going to do. What should I do, Dad?'"

Paul H. Dixon:

And he said, "I don't know what you're going to do." He said, "You know what the rule is around this house. We go to church on Sunday night. If you're not in church on Sunday night, you're going to pay the consequence." But he said, "It's your decision to make. You're a senior in high school. So he said the kid chose go to the hockey game. He went to the hockey game, and of course, the game was over and he just had missed part of the service, so he was waiting for him at home.

Paul H. Dixon:

And he said, "I got home that night and there was my kid sitting on the piano bench." He said, "He was a whipped pup. I said, 'You lost, huh?' He said, 'Yeah.' He said, 'In more ways than one.' He said, 'Dad,' he said, 'We not only lost that hockey match,' he said, 'I was one of the most miserable fellows out there on that ice that I could be.' He said, 'Boy, I really blew it. I made the wrong decision and I know it.' He said, 'Whatever the consequences is, you give it to me.'" And I think the dad said, "You're grounded for two weeks. You can't use the car. You can't go any place but to school and home and church for the next two weeks. He said the kid took it so well, he said after the first week, I took it off. But he said, "I think that kid really learned by having to make a decision for himself, even though it was a wrong decision."

Paul H. Dixon:

So in answer to your question, I think it depends on the child. The important thing is lay a foundation. There has to be a foundation laid. If you think that you're going to suddenly be able to legislate Christianity when they get to be teenagers, if you haven't built the foundation while they were children, forget it. Somebody else.

Speaker 3:

[inaudible 00:31:41]

Paul H. Dixon:

Yes. Did I teach Scott to pray? Tried to. It's a difficult thing to teach somebody to pray, I think. You hate to be critical of someone, even a child. You hate to say, "Man, you're saying the same things over and over again," or "You're being repetitious." You try to teach them to pray, and yet you don't want them praying for you. You don't want to build up some kind of a complex within them where every time they pray, they wonder, well, what is somebody thinking about what I've just had to say? So it's not the easiest thing. I think the best way to teach somebody to pray is as you pray, the way you pray. One guy taught me a lot about prayer when I was in college simply because I never heard anybody who could just really enter into the presence of the Lord and just talk to him like that fellow. There was just something about the way he prayed. You just sensed that he was in the presence of the Lord. He talked to him just like he talked to his best friend. Somebody else. Yes.

Speaker 4:

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

[inaudible 00:32:52]

Paul H. Dixon:

Yes, I think I would. In fact, I do not hold the position that God doesn't hear anybody's prayer before they are saved. I think anybody who is earnestly seeking God, that God hears their prayer. I think the illustration is Cornelius in Acts 10. He prayed a prayer that was answered before he was saved. He was seeking God. I think in a sense, this is what a child is. The child, we recognize that he's not responsible for his salvation. I think you're thinking probably when they're just starting to talk and they're coming to the table and so forth. So I think in a sense, there is a seeking there. We're trying to at least teach them to seek. So I'm not against that child praying. I think that the learning process is there. I think that the little things that we teach them, that's about all they can learn, is a little prayer. Thank you, Jesus, or something like that. Just be sure that they graduate out of that.

Paul H. Dixon:

When I was 16 years old, I prayed every night. "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John bless the bed that I lay on. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." I wasn't saved, see, but I thought I was spiritual because I prayed that little ditty every night. Yes.

Speaker 5:

[inaudible 00:34:11].

Paul H. Dixon:

What would you do if your child started learning curse words? You mean he came home and-

Speaker 5:

[inaudible 00:34:22].

Paul H. Dixon:

Yeah. I think the best thing to do is, of course, don't come through to him that you're shocked or totally alarmed. But I'd just talk to them about it. Usually they'll come home and they'll have heard these words, and they'll either start using them not knowing what they're saying, or else they'll have an idea that something's wrong with this and they'll sometimes ask you, what does this mean? And you can just tell them and explain to them that they're going to be facing this right on through their life, and they're going to have to develop their own vocabulary that's going to be different from that. I think as you deal with it early, it's not the problem if you start having to deal with it later on.

Paul H. Dixon:

Same thing about sex education. I don't claim, again, to have all the answers with sex education. But I think if you to just deal with things normally. Don't try to talk about more than they want to talk about. In the course of their lives, most of them will ask you enough questions. And if you are honest with them and just tell them what they need to hear, basically, you will give them a sex education. I think, again, it's really good for it to be naturally. It shouldn't be a structured situation like, okay, we're going to meet around the table today and we're going to have classes on sex education. No.

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

Paul H. Dixon:

Scott and I have a great time listening to ball games. We'll just go in, get on the bed sometimes at night, and turn on the ballgame and listen to it until he goes to sleep. Maybe the game is a drag that night or something, turn it down, and just start talking about different things of the day, and maybe share with him a couple experiences. I think every boy needs to be warned about homosexuals, especially in this day we're living in. They need to know what they are, they need to know what to look out for. Just talk about it while you're just knocking around. And about development and so on and some of the things that are going to be happening. The girls should be told about some things that are going to be happening to them physically, and the boys need to know, but it needs to be naturally.

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:36:34]

Paul H. Dixon:

Well, I think I'm not up on it as much around here, sex education in the school that was such a big issue in our part of the country has died down because it met with such opposition. I don't know whether they've just gone ahead and subtly now put it into the schools without our knowing about it. That's quite possible. But I think from what I found out about the sex education around Ohio in the schools, I was opposed to it. As to what could be done if it finally got in the school, I haven't studied it that much to find out as to whether you could request that your child not attend it or what. I'd probably have to know what the content of that was that was being taught.

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:37:32]

Paul H. Dixon:

In California?

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:37:34].

Paul H. Dixon:

Oh yes, definitely.

Speaker 6:

[inaudible 00:37:50].

Paul H. Dixon:

Definitely. That's why in our part of the country, we've been so opposed to it in the churches, is because they talk about it being objective. Whatever the teacher's philosophy about sex is going to come through. Of course, that's why we have such a resurgence for Christian schools all across this country, too, is so we can get our children out of this situation. Let's face it. I think we'd be careful in this, that we don't judge the parent who doesn't put their child in the Christian school, that we think they're

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

unspiritual. There may be some financial difficulties or they just may not be sold on the idea, they may have a different philosophy. But we have to admit that this is one of the plus marks of a Christian education, is that they don't have to contend with that. Somebody else.

Speaker 7:

[inaudible 00:38:43]

Paul H. Dixon:

Okay. Question is what if the father, evidently mean he's a Christian and he doesn't initiate the family worship, what should be done? That's a difficult thing. I don't know whether to suggest that... I hate to say just don't have it and depend upon him to do it. Yet on the other hand, if the father's a Christian, I really wonder if the wife should take the initiative to go ahead and have it. Anyone have something you'd like to suggest? I don't know exactly if I could be dogmatic on this. Someone else have a thought on it? Huh?

Speaker 7:

[inaudible 00:39:43]

Paul H. Dixon:

Well, I think there'd certainly be value in the wife maybe having a discussion with him. Of course, it's the same problem even with an unsaved husband. If you bug them... Men are just made this way. That just makes them, sorry to say, all the more stubborn, and they just refuse to do it even more. In a sense, I'm not sure that I see anything wrong with the wife going ahead and sharing the Bible story or some verses with the kids and praying before they go to bed. She definitely couldn't insist on the husband coming in and sitting in on that, but I think she could have a time with the children. Anyone see any objection to that? Does that seem to go contrary to any of the other principles we've established?

Speaker 7:

[inaudible 00:40:44].

Paul H. Dixon:

The only problem I see with that, but right now I've been inclined to think the plus signs outweigh the minus, would be that when you do this, you're letting him off the hook. And he is content to go along with that for the rest of your married days.

Speaker 7:

[inaudible 00:41:05].

Paul H. Dixon:

And he doesn't do it. The spiritual head. If mom was doing the Bible reading and the praying, maybe he exercises leadership in every other area, but does this mean he is not the spiritual head at home? That's another problem, right? Certainly a bad situation. I have to bring it up again. Gals, the main thing is, it's one thing to talk about these now and know about it. But if you marry a guy carelessly and you know

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

that he's not spiritual and you think you're going to make him spiritual, don't come to one of these classes five years from now-

Speaker 8:

[inaudible 00:41:50].

Paul H. Dixon:

Question is, would it be all right for the wife to ask a husband's friend to talk to him? I don't think so. Most men are smart enough to know that something's haywire here. How come all of a sudden my friend knows that I don't have any family altar?

Speaker 8:

[inaudible 00:42:14]

Paul H. Dixon:

I think I would be inclined to still think that it'd be difficult for that wife to go to the friend. I see this as a possible solution, but I probably would be very, very careful to do that. Generally, I think that's why from time to time, it's good in revival meetings periodically, I bring a message on the home and I give an invitation for men. Just like raise hands again, how many of you are having family altars consistently? Those of you who aren't, would you be willing to make the decision right now to start a family altar? By the grace of God, would you raise your hands? I ask for the couples to come forward and stand in the church and we have a special time of prayer. It's a precious service, a great service. I feel it's one of the best services we have in our meetings. We ask couples to come who will start family altars, or who used to have them and they've been broken down and you want to start them again. So I think the preaching ministry, again, can do a lot to straighten out the situation.

Speaker 9:

[inaudible 00:43:19]

Paul H. Dixon:

A problem of argument over family devotions. You mean doctrinally, I wonder?

Speaker 9:

[inaudible 00:43:43]

Paul H. Dixon:

Well, she shouldn't be doing that, really. I think she's making a big mistake. If she doesn't agree with something that he's trying to teach in the Word of God, I think she should be very careful in taking offense with that, differing with it.

Paul H. Dixon:

Paul H. Dixon
God's Place in the Home
circa 1979

Okay. I'll tell you, I haven't heard the bell ring, but I see a few stirring around. If you have a pressing question on the home, any question that you'd really like for us to discuss before we close this elective, bring it up now. Or as Pastor Long says, bring it up next year. Yes.

Speaker 10:

[inaudible 00:44:31]

Paul H. Dixon:

I think the question is about the pastor who allowed his son to make the choice in going to the hockey match or if he didn't, he paid the consequences. I think it's good to have limits and to have the consequences. I'm not saying that would necessarily be true every time. But I think this pastor was being very wise. He was just letting him know right from the start that there will be consequences if you make this decision because you know what we expect of you. But I'm going to allow you now at your age to make this decision. Again, I would say that pastor did that probably knowing his son. There's some children that you might know them well enough to say I wouldn't even try that. I would just tell him he couldn't go. Depends on the kid.

Paul H. Dixon:

I don't think anybody can just set up a list of rules and say that you do all these in the family and it will work. The biblical principles are there. We need to stick with the principles. But when it goes like these things beyond the principles, then we're allowed some freedom. You just have to pray for wisdom. You'll make some right decisions, you'll make some wrong ones.

Paul H. Dixon:

Boy, one of the things I keep coming back to, though, is the grace of God. Man, when I talk to the Lord about my son, I just say, "Lord, if he makes it, I know it's by your grace. We want wisdom in how we bring him up, but I just commit him to your grace."