

ALTARS – Pt.2: FAMILY ALTAR, MARRIAGE ALTAR, HEART ALTAR

God set the order of families and households. In every home that has a father and mother, the father is the head of the household and he is the priest in the home. If there is only one parent, then that parent is head of the household and the priest of the home as well.

Let's look at that in Scripture. This verse is right after Adam and Eve had sinned against God by listening to satan who spoke through the serpent.

Genesis 3:16 - Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow (pain) and thy conception; in sorrow (pain) thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

This is where we see the order of the household. And of course God gave marriage to be between one man and one woman and our example of that is that He created Adam and then He created Eve to be His mate.

The only exception to the father being the priest and head of the household is like in my situation, I am the priest of my household, but Scott is still the head of the household. I am a woman Pastor but I must submit and obey my husband when it comes to family and marriage matters. Just as Scott has to honor the special grace and anointing on my life when it comes to spiritual matters. I am the pastor of Scott and Kennedy as well as all of you that are our online congregation.

Remember Abraham, Noah, Job and the early patriarchs building altars at their homes and significant places where they had encounters with God. They were the heads of their households and the priests of their houses too.

Today, each home has a spiritual altar that is being served on. Each home can only have one altar. You either have an evil altar or a godly altar. For families where neither of the partners has a five-fold office calling but both are saved, the husband takes the lead on servicing the altar and the same applies to the unsaved family.



It seems that Catholic homes are big on having an altar in their home. They will put rosary beads, dried flowers, figurines, candles etc. on this altar.



Here's another one. Some are hanging on the wall. When I talk about having a home altar, this is not what I mean. None of this is of God. This does not please Him and He does not accept anything offered on this type of altar or shrine.

Acts 17:29 - Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

God is not known by any symbol or image or figurine. We do not use any of these things in our worship to Him.

In families where the child is called into ministry and the parents are not, they should respect him as the priest among them. But they have to continue guiding and teaching their child to mature in God's work.



Joseph and Mary are a perfect example of this. They did not understand all that Jesus would do but they knew what had been prophesied about Him and over Him and they knew He was God's very own Son and they raised Him in God's Word and in His ways. Remember, He was already teaching the religious teachers at the age of 12. (Luke 2:41-52)



King David is another good example. He was anointed at a young age to be the next king of Israel. He grew up in a righteous home and continued to grow in the Lord. Remember he knew God already when he was out keeping those sheep and God had helped him to have victory over the bear and lion that tried to get the sheep (**1 Sam.17:37**).

Marriage is a form of altar. The marriage is a Godly one or ungodly. You are either saved and both serving the Lord together or unequally yoked and one serves the Lord and the other does not, or neither are saved.

No matter the different combinations, there is only one altar in each household. In the situation of being unequally yoked, one will compromise under the other, especially if one was born again and decided to marry a non Christian.

If the christian married an unsaved person they compromised right there. So in that case, the marriage was founded on an evil altar.

If they were both unsaved and then one gets saved, the one who gets saved is to live an openly godly life.

UNEQUALLY YOKED MARRIAGES

People who marry non Christians face lots of trouble because the two altars start to fight. And always one must win. Or either the other one will get saved. Or the believer will compromise. Or live all their life striving. It will be a heavy price of living a difficult life.

Remember two cannot walk together unless they agree.

Amos 3:3 - Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

It is going to be a long hard road if they are not both saved.

I watched my mom do this. The altar that my dad served on ruled our house. My mom very rarely got her way. She was able to force her children to go to church for a while but as my brothers kept fighting her about it eventually my dad told her to stop making them go to church. Gradually when I was older the same thing happened, I complained and my dad took my side against my mom and I too quit going to church. There were no prayers said in our home, no Bible read as a family or discussed as a family. My mom tried to give at the church but she usually had to do it secretly or not at all or give very little. We did not praise and worship the Lord in our home.

My brothers grew up to cuss, drink and sleep around. I followed suit as well. I remember one of my brothers buying a t-shirt that had a popular saying on it at the time. It said "I'm the only hell my mama ever raised." He tried to hide that shirt because he knew it was wrong. He only hid it at home because he knew mom would not like it. But he did wear it.

The altar in our home was not a godly one. Anytime my mom got something on the side of righteousness, she had to fight for it.

That's why in the old testament God didn't allow the Israelites to intermarry the other nations. Why? Because they served on evil alters under foreign gods.

1 Cor.7:10-17 - And unto the married I command, *yet* not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away (divorce) *his* wife. But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife (the believing wife brings holiness to the marriage), and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband (the believing husband brings holiness to the marriage): else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such *cases* (they are no longer bound in such cases): but God hath called us to peace (God has called us to live in peace). For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save *thy* husband (Do you wives realize that your husband might be saved because of you)? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save *thy* wife (Do you husbands realize that your wife might be saved because of you)? But as God hath distributed to every man (Nevertheless each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them), as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

My mom stayed faithful to her vows even though my dad was abusive to her.

We thought in order for the non-believer to be content to stay with the believer, it meant the believer had to be a closet Christian or not live openly as a Christian so that they could get along and not cause problems. That's not right. In those cases, the believer is to live an openly Christian life first and foremost and if the unbeliever is ok with that, then so be it.

You are to live your life as a true christian openly and if the spouse cannot endure it or is abusive because of it, then, according to God's Word, you are free to leave that marriage.

In these instances where the husband or the wife gets saved, is where the Bible says God is looking for a righteous seed. He is in the process of restoring His godly altar, if not through both parents, then through one parent, whose offspring will be sanctified.

Then when the offspring are saved, and the child grows up, staying true to God, they will be equally yoked in marriage. Starting their marriage and family the right way, as a true Christian home serving on a godly altar.

A christian in an ungodly home must do their best to honor God and avoid the sinful activities as much as possible. Stay covered in the blood of Jesus. Live a righteous life under the circumstances as best they can.

Romans 12:18 - If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Pastor Erustus shared: You cannot agree Pastor as long as you are not serving on the same altar, under different gods, different priestly anointing and different sacrifices. You will never agree!! On flesh matters, you may agree, but not spiritual matters.

The people who believe they are good people and don't serve God. They are sinners. They are in satan's army. They are at very low ranks in his army because they have not willingly sought out position with satan. But they are still in his army nonetheless.

Pastor Erustus said: That is why people must avoid on a serious note marrying a non believer if at all they are born again. They will never enjoy that marriage.

Pastor shared: You remember the altars Abraham raised for the Lord? Many years later Isaac came and activated the same altars. Offering on them, serving on them. Later again Jacob comes to offer at the same place.

These are spiritual things, they don't die easy, they just need to be activated. And really the activation is by the power and presence of God when someone who serves Him serves at that altar.

It was ok for the Patriarchs to erect altars where they lived until God commanded the Tabernacle to be built and later the Temple. Then under the New Covenant,

the church moved to house churches. So that is where the church altar expanded out to. Now churches are all over. But God was targeting the human heart to be His main altar. The Bible says our bodies are the temple of God and he who destroys the body shall also be destroyed by God. The Tabernacle and Temple being physical structures were symbolic altars of the spiritual altars in us, as God's temple.

1 Cor.6:15-20 – Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot (Should a man take his body which is part of Christ and join it to a prostitute)? God forbid (Never!). What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith He, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit (But whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in Spirit). Flee fornication (Run from sexual sins). Every sin that a man doeth is without (outside) the body; but he that committeth fornication (sexual sins) sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which (Who) is* in you, which ye have of God (Whom you have received of God), and ye are not your own (You do not belong to yourself)? For ye are bought with a price (a high price): therefore glorify God in your body (Honor God with your body), and in your spirit, which are God's.

This is why we do not erect altars inside of our homes. God's altar is inside of us. And the altar in our homes is a spiritual one that cannot be seen with our natural eyes.

CLOSING

1 Cor.3:17 - If any man defile the temple of God (If anyone destroys God's temple), him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice (offer your bodies as a living sacrifice), holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service (this is your true and proper worship).

We are temples of God, we have an altar to God inside of us, we are living sacrifices to Him.

PRAYER