



Welcome Home!

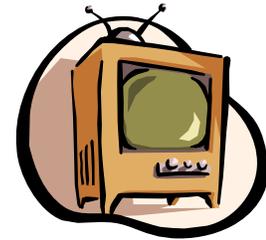


Homelessness begins in the heart – that empty awareness of not feeling you belong anywhere – abandoned, forsaken, nowhere to go, not belonging to anyone or any group. Even people who have always had a roof over their head can feel homeless in their heart as a result of not receiving love or nurturing as a child. Children who grow up feeling unloved spend the rest of their lives searching for a place to belong – a home for their heart.



The greatest cause of homeless hearts today is: (1) because of men who get women pregnant then leave because they have no interest in or intention in becoming a father to the child, (2) fathers in the home who abuse their children verbally, physically and sexually (3) fathers or mothers who abandoned their responsibilities and left the home and the mother of their children. Mothers can abuse their children also, but in the majority of cases, it is the father who is abusive and who walks away leaving the woman with all the responsibility of raising the children any way she can.

Most homeless women and children were wounded in childhood by a father or the lack of one. Fatherhood is the very foundation of God's plan of life on this planet. The very first word in the Hebrew dictionary is "ab," meaning "father." A father is defined as a guardian, protector, provider and teacher that provides comfort, strength encouragement and guidance. Yet never before have so many people been fatherless, with so many children raising themselves or worse yet, being raised by the TV set with no one to protect them from sin, wickedness, cruelty, abuse and perversion of innocence that withers their lives like a tender plant exposed to the harsh burning sun with no one to shield it from destruction.



A woman who has been abandoned or forsaken by the father of her children is considered in God's eyes to be a widow, and the children of that mother are considered to be fatherless. God speaks many times in the Old Testament about the necessity of His people to take care of the widow and the fatherless because He loves them so much, and they need help and protection. In one place He is called by David "A *father of the fatherless, and a judge (who seeks justice) for the widows.*" (Psalm 68:5)

But, there is only one reference to the fatherless in the New Testament because in Jesus, His Son, God became a Father to all who receive Jesus as their Savior. Jesus said it this way, "I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that You have sent me, and have loved them as (the same as) You have loved Me." (John 17:23) "For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whoever would believe on Him would never perish, but would have eternal life." (John 3:16)

(Cont'd)

We have an eternal future with God. We are in His family. God planned before the foundation of the world that those who would believe in Jesus would be adopted as His children and were accepted in the beloved family. There is no greater love than our heavenly Father's love for us. He watches over us tenderly and He forgives us, and heals us and saves us from destruction. He is a much better Father than any earthly father could be.

The only answer to homelessness in the heart is the same answer to all the problems of the world. The answer is LOVE. "*God is love.*" (I John 4:8) Not just love as we, in our little human minds understand it, but the God kind of love. God is a spirit, so His love is a spiritual force. It is a force that bonds those who believe in Him, and receive Jesus as His Son and their Savior, in an eternal bond of love and peace that nothing in this world or the next can break or separate. "*For I am persuaded, that neither death, or life, or angels, or principalities, or powers, or things present, or things to come, or height, or depth, or any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.*" (Romans 8:38,39)



God's love in us is the only thing strong enough to overcome the problems we face in this world. His love is our safe haven, our anchor and our lighthouse in the storms of life. "*The Name of the Lord is a strong tower and the righteous (those who belong to Jesus) run into it and they are safe.*" (Proverbs 18:10)

Faith is believing God truly loves you and is always working things out on your behalf. No matter how dark it looks outside, the light is always burning in the window of His heart to guide you safely home to Him. Part of faith is fidelity. That means that you will not seek another lover instead of God when things seem to go wrong.

All love comes from God because He is love. The world is in chaos because it refuses to believe in God and receive His love. A love decision creates a love attitude. A love attitude creates loving thoughts. Our emotions and feelings follow our thoughts so if we think loving thoughts we will feel loved. And, when we feel loved, we feel accepted. When we feel accepted, we feel at home. When we feel at home, our heart is no longer homeless and we have found God.

Welcome home!



Welcome Home!

1. Why do people grow up feeling homeless in their heart?

2. Briefly tell the 3 major causes of homeless hearts today.

3. What is the foundation of God's plan for life on this planet?

4. What is a widow, and what is a fatherless child in God's eyes?

5. How did God become a Father to you?

6. When did God make His plan to adopt you?

7. What is the only answer to homelessness in the heart?

8. What can separate you from God's love?

9. Who is the only source of all love?

10. What is our safe haven in the storms of life? (Proverbs 18:10)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE _____

Welcome Home!

1. Why do people grow up feeling homeless in their heart?

They did not receive love or nurturing as a child.

2. Briefly tell the 3 major causes of homeless hearts today.

Men get women pregnant and then leave them.

Fathers abuse their children verbally, physically, sexually.

Fathers decided to abandon their responsibilities and their family.

3. What is the foundation of God's plan for life on this planet?

Fatherhood.

4. What is a widow, and what is a fatherless child in God's eyes?

A woman and her children who have been abandoned by the father.

5. How did God become a Father to you?

I received Jesus as my Savior.

6. When did God make His plan to adopt you?

Even before the foundation of the world.

7. What is the only answer to homelessness in the heart?

Love, the God kind of love.

8. What can separate you from God's love?

Nothing!

9. Who is the only source of all love?

God!

10. What is our safe haven in the storms of life? (Proverbs 18:10)

MEMORY VERSE "The Name of the Lord is a strong tower and the righteous run into it and they are safe."