

Six Steps to a Broken Home

by Bill Hall

A home is seldom destroyed overnight. Its destruction is usually the result of certain fatal steps taken over a lengthy period of time. In these days, when so many homes are crumbling, we would do well to examine our own marital relationships, to see if we have begun to travel the road to inevitable break-up. The following steps lead down that road:

1: Selfishness

This may be the number one enemy of a happy home life. Each person is doing his own thing. Neither is willing to give up what he wants to do wholesome activities that may be enjoyed together. Each is seeking his own satisfaction in material realms, in sexual activities, or in time spent with relatives with little concern for the partner's satisfaction in these matters. The long road has begun.

2: Intolerance

Faults in one's partner begin to show up that somehow had been hiding during the courtship period. Or, if the faults were evident they become far more irritating in a day to day, living together, relationship. Gradually, those faults are magnified. Nagging begins. Each decides that he has made a terrible mistake in this marriage.

3: Resignation

Both parties become resigned to their situation. "We've made our bed; we will just have to lie in it," they think. No further effort is made to build a happy home. Communication virtually ceases. Love begins to fade, and in many cases gives way to bitterness.

4: End Of Sexual Relations

The communication barrier soon affects the sexual relationship, and the couple find themselves no longer enjoying and fulfilling this God-given purpose in marriage. They have allowed their marriage to deteriorate into a mere housekeeping relationship. Such people may be easy pushovers for the next step.

5: Adultery

Temptation can arise so unexpectedly, and many a person whose physical needs are not being met at home may yield to the temptation. Rationalization comes easy in such cases: the person feels he has never gotten a "fair shake" at home; he deserves this new-found attention; this is true love(?); he is sure someone understands him for the first time. How deceptive sin is! Considerable time has passed since our couple took those first steps toward a broken home, but now their journey is completed. Only one other step remains.

6: Separation

The thing that has obviously destroyed this home is sin, but not just the sin of adultery. For selfishness, intolerance, lack of love, bitterness, and failure to satisfy physical needs (whenever possible) all constitute sin. We can come to but one conclusion. Sin is the cause of broken homes. It may be sin on the part of one or both parties, but a home is broken because of sin.

331302