Study Guide "House Call" from 6-17-2018

Key Scriptures: "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.'" (Matthew 16:13-19)

- 1 Corinthians 3:9-15 "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ..."
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more... I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."
- Galatians 5:7-9 "You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump."

Start Talking (Consider the list of statistics at the beginning of this message):

- Why is it sometimes difficult for fathers to say, "I'm sorry" to their children? Discuss.
- What kind of thinking or perception in children causes them to be influenced more by the fathers than the mothers regarding attending church?
- Mothers' Day is third of all holidays in church attendance, while Fathers' Day is last; yet, statistics show the tremendous impact of fathers on the family's church attendance. Discuss why this disparity exists.
- After hearing those statistics, what affect should the results have on a man in the family? Will it likely result in a change? Why? Why not?

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Start Thinking:

- Do you think that the feminist movement is offended that God made the fathers the spiritual leaders in the family? Discuss.
- If you've ever heard Christians compare their denomination against another, has it ever occurred to you that they are defending the decorations, not the foundation? Or, are there different foundations in so-called Christianity? What makes all true believers unified on the same foundation? Discuss.

Start Sharing:

- Men often talk boastfully about what they believe is true and important. How many of their lives are founded upon politics, social issues, or economic status and opinion, rather than the foundation of God's word? In what is their identity? Share and discuss.
- Pastor Bobby gave hymns, pews, and Sunday school programs as examples of "decorations." Is there anything wrong with churches having different decorations, as long as the foundation is the same? If not, why are some people so defensive about their decorations? Share and discuss.
- Read Galatians 5:7-9. Obedience seems opposed to freedom. Read John 14:15, 15:10. What are your thoughts about obeying God? Share.

Start Praying: "Lord, help us to obey your Word, even when it is at odds with the culture in which we live. We are ready to live by and trust in your eternal principals. In the Name of Jesus. Amen"

Start Doing:

- How does the redefining of what marriage is weaken God's foundation?
- Re-read, 1 Corinthians 9:19-22. Could the attempt to "become all things to all men" sometimes lead to weakening the foundation in some cases? Write down one example of compromise that went wrong. Discuss.

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• Pastor Bobby said, "We're not excited and our friends aren't invited to come see the foundation; but again, our house's foundation is the most important part of a house." What can you do this week to make sure that the people you are trying to reach for Christ take a good look at the real foundation of God's church?