



MAKING YOUR HOME YOUR CASTLE

THE CASE FOR
COMPANIONSHIP

By Skip Heitzig



Some people build their lives like a medieval castle. They protect themselves from emotional harm—the drawbridge is closed; they are secure from attack. However, the occupant rattles around the castle alone. The castle-dweller is a self-made prisoner. He or she longs to feel loved, but the walls are so high that it is difficult to connect with others.

King Solomon, the man granted wisdom by God, recognized that life without companionship could get lonely. (Note that loneliness isn't necessarily aloneness. There are times when solitude is good.) Solomon made the case for companionship, stating that "two are better than one" (Ecclesiastes 4:9). Let's examine the benefits of married bliss:

- **MUTUAL REWARD:** *"They have a good reward for their labor" (Ecclesiastes 4:9).*

During the Depression, there was a popular Tin Pan Alley song, "Potatoes are cheaper, tomatoes are cheaper, now's the time to fall in love." People once married on the basis that two could live less expensively than one. Today the IRS gives tax breaks to married couples.

- **MUTUAL REASSURANCE:** *"If they fall, one will lift up his companion" (Ecclesiastes 4:10).*

The fall may be literal, where one falls and needs



help to stand up. The fall could be metaphorical, where one fails in an endeavor and needs encouragement to restore confidence. It could be a spiritual fall into a snare set by Satan, where love and prayer lead to recovery.

- **MUTUAL REFRESHMENT:** *"If two lie down together, they will keep warm" (Ecclesiastes 4:11).*

Originally, this was written with travelers huddling together for warmth on cold nights in mind. But this is good advice for married couples to settle differences before the sun goes down. It's difficult to snuggle when you're angry. The Scripture tells us, "Do not let the sun go down on your wrath" (Ephesians 4:26).

- **MUTUAL REINFORCEMENT:** *"Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him" (Ecclesiastes 4:12).*

Remember the story of the Good Samaritan, who helped a man who was overcome by an attacker on a journey? It's true! Life's journey is full of unforeseen attacks. As believers, we have an enemy, the devil, who "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). When we travel together, we're less likely to face assault. Our spouse can watch our back and help us overcome the attacker by standing with us against our foe.

At the end of his case for companionship, Solomon said, "A threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12). He's speaking of a rope woven from three strands twisted together. One strand may have some strength; two strands are slightly stronger; but three strands will hold up under greater tension and strain. In a Christian marriage, the third strand is Jesus Christ, the fiber that holds your union together.

In the 1950's television show *The Honeymooners*, Jackie Gleason as Ralph Kramden memorably said, "Alice... This house is my castle! I'm the king!" Your house *can* be your castle, but only if you recognize Jesus Christ as King of your life.