Using Proverbs at Home
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from and outline by Steve Higganbotham)

Introduction:
A. The book of Proverbs is well suited to offer counsel for strengthening homes.
   1. Prov. 1:1-9

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT FAMILIES OUTLINED IN PROVERBS
   A. The wife must:
      1. Be trustworthy - Prov. 31:11
      2. Have an enduring love - Prov. 31:12
      3. Develop the inner person - Prov. 31:25
      4. Speak wisdom and kindness - Prov. 31:26
      5. Not be contentious - Prov. 21:19
   B. The husband must:
      1. Praise his wife - Prov. 31:28-29
      2. Rejoice with the wife of his youth - Prov. 5:15-18
      3. “Why did he only give men a couple of things to do?” Perhaps because
         that’s all they can handle at one time (intended as humor)
   C. The family must:
      1. Guard their name and influence - Prov. 22:1
      2. Be accountable to one another - Prov. 12:15, 27:17
      3. Practice forgiveness - Prov. 17:9
      4. Practice honesty - Prov. 21:2-3
      5. Practice reverence - Prov. 14:26; 16:3
      6. Practice contentment - Prov. 15:16, 16:8
      7. Practice respect - Prov. 16:31, 23:22
      8. Communicate - Prov. 25:11

Conclusion:
A. Proverbs' instructions for the home are far more extensive, covering many
   areas where wisdom is needed, but all can be summarized in five points:
      1. Love God and each other
      2. Administer instruction and disciple with caring concern.
      3. Practice consistency providing security in standards and morals.
      4. Be the kind of example that instills deep faith in God in others.
      5. Be the kind of family that puts God first in all decisions.