

## Havoc in the Home

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Richard Baxter said, "It is the great duty of husbands and wives to live in quietness and peace, and avoid all occasions of wrath and discord." His words have a great practical importance to this day.

1. Discord is nothing but great pain. Like a fractured limb it causes great pain until it is cured. No sane individual would intentionally hurt themselves. When hurt, sane individuals look for the cure as soon as possible.
2. To be tied together by outward bonds when your hearts are separated is a great torment. The difference between a house and a prison is that you gladly dwell in your house. Turmoil turns your home of delight into a prison.
3. Strife increasingly unfits you for the worship of God. Wrath and bitterness takes away the sweet fellowship of joy in fellowship with God and each other.
4. Dissension is a disability when it comes to raising children, inasmuch as your example will be damaged.
5. Dissension will expose you to the malice of Satan. A house divided cannot stand.

In order to avoid these dangers:

1. Keep up the love with your spouse. Love is made to suppress wrath.
2. Both husband and wife must put down pride and passion and must pray for a humble, meek, and quiet spirit.
3. Agree together that when one is angry, the other will be silent and gently bear the anger of the other without responding in kind.
4. It takes two persons to fight. Calm and condescending words of reason serve to move the angry person from a state of anger to the place of prayer.
5. Confess your faults to one another and ask forgiveness of each other and join in prayer.