



CHAPTER SEVEN

The Third Amendment

The sanctity of the home

Some consider the Third Amendment the Forgotten Amendment. Have you ever heard someone talk about the Third Amendment? Probably not! The First and Second Amendments are often discussed, but the Third Amendment is one of the least talked about parts of the Constitution. Even though it is short, it teaches an important lesson: your home is a special place that deserves protection.

FOR THE PARENT OR GRANDPARENT

This is the shortest amendment in the Bill of Rights and the least argued over. That makes it a good one to slow down on — the chapter is really about the home, and a child has a great deal to say about their own.

The actual Third Amendment

RATIFIED 1791

"No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law."



What does it mean? The Third Amendment says that the government cannot force people to let soldiers live in their homes during peacetime without the owner's permission. Even during wartime, soldiers could only be housed in private homes if the law specifically allowed it.

REMEMBER THIS

Young people, your home belongs to your family and is to be your **sanctuary and refuge**. The government cannot simply decide to force strangers to move into your house.

Your Home Is Meant to Be a Place Of

The Third Amendment protects a place, and the place it protects is the one you know best.

1

Safety

2

Love

3

Worship

4

Family



Why did the Founders include it?

Before the American Revolution, Britain passed laws called the **Quartering Acts**. These laws required the American colonies to provide housing and supplies for British soldiers.

Although soldiers were often housed in barracks, inns, or other public buildings, the colonists feared government control over their homes and property.



Many colonists believed this violated their privacy and property rights. Imagine coming home from school and finding strangers living in your bedroom because the government ordered it!

The colonists believed that was unfair. When America became independent, the Founders wanted to make sure this could not happen under the new Constitution.

WORDS TO WATCH FOR

To **quarter** soldiers means to give them a place to live. The **Quartering Acts** were the British laws that made the colonies do it.

The home is special

The Founders believed that the home is one of the most important places in society. It is where:

- ◆ Parents teach children.
- ◆ Families worship God.
- ◆ Meals are shared.
- ◆ Character is built.
- ◆ Love is practiced.
- ◆ Memories are made.

A free nation begins with strong families. Strong families begin with secure homes.

A SAYING WORTH KEEPING

A saying that I'm fond of repeating when preaching to our congregations is, *"As goes the father, so goes the home, and as goes the home, so goes the church, and as goes the church, so goes the nation."*



Bible connection

Throughout the Bible, the home is a place where faith is taught and families grow together.

DEUTERONOMY 6:7

"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."



God intended parents — not the government — to have the primary responsibility for teaching and raising their children.

REMEMBER THIS

A strong home is built on **God's truth**.

The Virtues Behind the Third Amendment

The Third Amendment is about more than soldiers. It reminds us to value the home. Read across each row: the principle on the left, the virtue it asks for on the right.

PRINCIPLE

VIRTUE

Respect for the home

Honor

Respect for families

Love

Respect for property

Responsibility

Limited government

Wisdom

Peace in the home

Peace

REMEMBER THIS

When families are strong, the church is strengthened, and communities flourish.



Rights come with responsibilities

The Third Amendment protects our homes. That means we also have responsibilities. We should:

- ◆ Respect our home.
- ◆ Help care for it.
- ◆ Honor our parents.
- ◆ Be hospitable to guests.
- ◆ Make our homes places of love, prayer, learning, and peace.

R.J. RUSHDOONY

"The family is not only the first environment of the child, it is also his first school, where he receives his basic education; his first church, where he is taught his first and foundational lessons concerning God and life; his first state, where he learns elements of law and order and obeys them; and his first vocation, where the child is given work to do, and responsibilities in terms of it."

WHY IT MATTERS

God gave the family an important responsibility. A God-ordained family is the building block of a sound society. Our homes should reflect **God's love, care, and provision.**

Constitution fun facts

- ◆ The Third Amendment has been called the least-litigated amendment because very few court cases have involved it.
- ◆ The Third Amendment was inspired by the colonists' experience under the British Quartering Acts.
- ◆ Although it specifically mentions soldiers, many scholars believe it also reflects a broader constitutional value: the privacy and security of the home.
- ◆ The Third Amendment helped shape later ideas about personal privacy in American law.

FOUNDER SPOTLIGHT



Samuel Adams

1722–1803. One of the strongest defenders of colonial rights. He believed that government should protect the liberties of the people — not invade their homes or take away their freedoms without lawful authority.

"Among the natural rights of the colonists are these: First, a right to life; secondly, to liberty; thirdly, to property."

WHAT HE MEANT

Samuel Adams believed that protecting property and liberty helped preserve a free society.

Words to know

Quarter To provide living space for soldiers.

Quartering Acts British laws requiring the colonies to provide housing for soldiers.

Consent Giving permission.

Owner The person who legally possesses a home or property.

Property Things that belong to someone, such as a home or land.

MEMORY VERSE

**"Except the LORD build the house,
they labor in vain that build it."**

Psalm 127:1





COLOR IT IN

You finished Chapter Seven!

The Third Amendment — three down, seven to go.

BILL OF RIGHTS

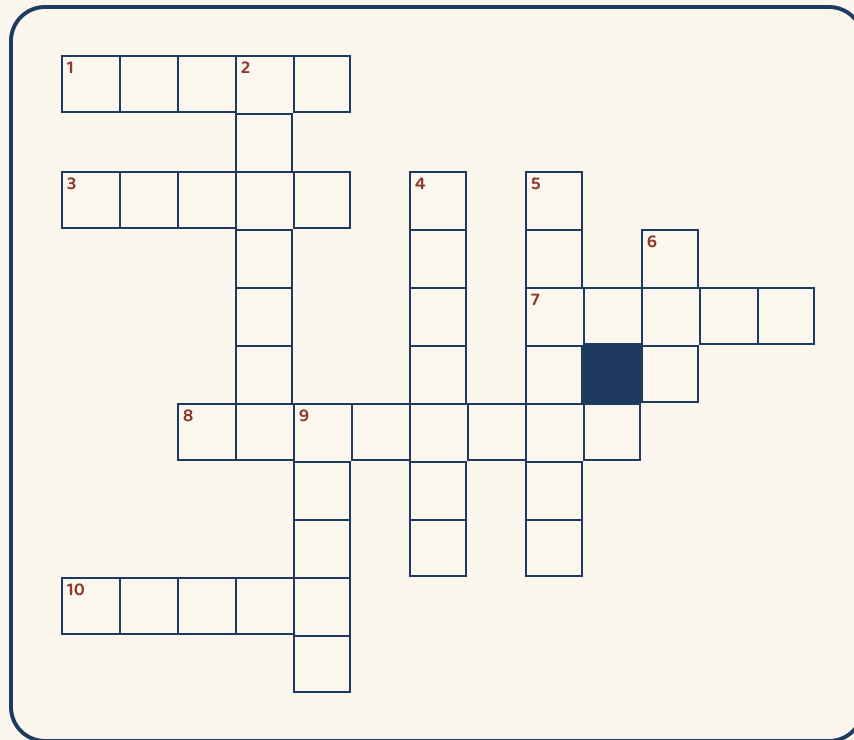


3 OF 10

- 1 To provide living space for soldiers is to them.
- 2 Giving permission is called
- 3 The person who legally possesses a home or property is the
- 4 Things that belong to someone, such as a home or land, are
- 5 The amendment begins, "No shall, in time of peace be quartered."
- 6 No soldier shall be quartered in time of
- 7 No soldier shall be quartered in any
- 8 In time of war, soldiers may be housed only in a manner prescribed by
- 9 Samuel was one of the strongest defenders of colonial rights.
- 10 Our memory verse says, "Except the LORD the house."

Third Amendment Crossword

Every answer comes from this chapter. Write one letter in each white square.



ACROSS

- 1 No Soldier shall be quartered in any ____.
- 3 Except the LORD ____ the house, they labor in vain.
- 7 Samuel ____, defender of colonial rights.
- 8 Things that belong to someone, such as a home or land.
- 10 No soldier shall be quartered in time of ____.

DOWN

- 2 No ____ shall, in time of peace, be quartered.
- 4 Giving permission.
- 5 To provide living space for soldiers.
- 6 In time of war, in a manner prescribed by ____.
- 9 The person who legally possesses a home or property.

Family Questions

Talk these through together before you write. There is no hurry.

1 • Why do you think the Founders believed the home should be protected?

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2 • Why is home an important place for learning and growing?

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3 • How can our family make our home a place of peace?

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4 • Why is it important for parents to teach God's Word at home?

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5 • How can we show respect for our home every day?

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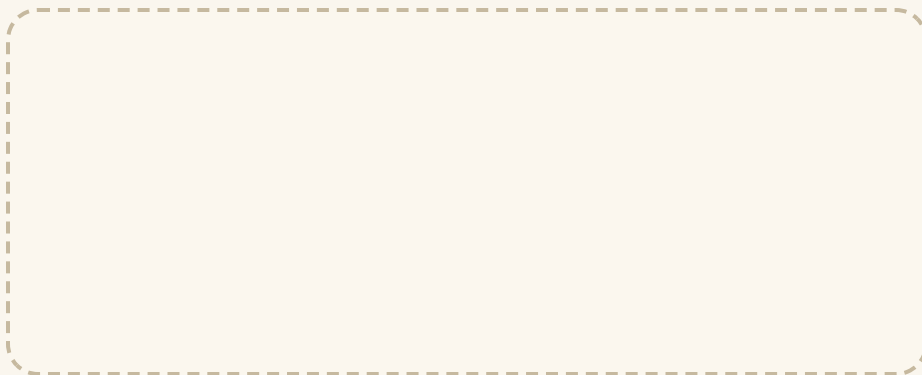
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FOR THE PARENT OR GRANDPARENT

Question three is the one to sit with. Let the child name something specific and small that would make your own home more peaceful this week, and then do it.

Building a Strong Home

A family activity. Draw a picture of your house. Inside the drawing, write words that describe what makes a Christian home strong.



EXAMPLES

- ◆ Love
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Bible Reading
- ◆ Kindness
- ◆ Forgiveness
- ◆ Joy

Then ask: Which of these can our family practice more this week?

A GRANDPARENT'S THOUGHT

The Third Amendment may seem like a small amendment, but it teaches a very big lesson. The Founders believed that the home should be a place of security, not fear.

The Bible teaches that the home is where children learn about God, parents teach wisdom, and families grow together in love. A nation is only as strong as its homes. When homes are filled with faith, truth, love, and respect, communities become stronger, and liberty has a firm foundation. When families are out of order, dysfunctional, and abusive, not only do people spin out of control, but society suffers great harm as well.

One of the main reasons why there is such a burden of taxation upon America today is because in many ways our government is replacing God in our lives and fathers in our homes.

The Constitution protects our homes from unnecessary government intrusion, but it is our responsibility to fill our homes with God's truth, love, and peace.