

Family (The Christian Home) Part 2

Lesson 11- Spiritual Discipleship and Growth

Intro: Christian homes and marriages are NOT exempt from pressures and troubles. There may be times when serious problems arise. Always feel that you can confidently speak to (me) your pastor about such matters. I believe the Bible has the answer, and I am more than willing pray and help you. All I'd ask that you be willing to accept Bible answers and principles over worldly "solutions!"

A. Children's Duties to Their Parents:

- a. _____ thy father and mother. Exodus 20:12
- b. Listen to your parents' _____. Proverbs 13:1
- c. _____ your parents. Ephesians 6:1

B. Family Life:

"In the house of the righteous is much treasure." Proverbs 15:6

1. Look up: Ephesians 4:31, 32. List the **six** things that need to be put out of your family and home:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

... and the **three** things you need to have there:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. What is it that should be a constant part of your home? Deuteronomy 6:5-7 _____.

What was Joshua's motto for his home? Joshua 24:15

_____.

3. There is a wonderful trilogy of the Christian home found in the Psalms. Let's look at the following.

- The BUILDING of the Home: Psalm 127
- The BLESSING of the Home: Psalm 128
- The BEHAVIOR of the Home: Psalm 131

C. Establishing a "FAMILY ALTAR"

One of the greatest blessings you can enjoy in your home is to have what some call a "family altar." This is a definite time, place, and event in the routine of your home where the whole family meets around the Word of God- to read, to pray, to sing, and to talk.

In our fast-moving society, it will be one of the most difficult things for you to do, but one of the best!

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1. The responsibility of the family altar:

Look up: Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; 1 Peter 3:7; and 1 Corinthians 14:35.

This is the responsibility that God places upon the _____.

2. How to establish your family altar:

a. Decide upon the most suitable time for your home. If appropriate, call a family conference to make this decision.

b. Make a definite commitment to the Lord to the establishment of your family altar. Plan to stick to it.

c. Work out a plan of Bible reading and devotional material. This will vary depending upon the age of any children. Talk to your pastor if help is needed in selecting some good materials.

d. Do it!!! Right Away!! Then be ready to resist the Devil as he throws his fiery darts of opposition.

3. Suggestions for a good family altar:

a. Always read a portion of scripture. The Book of Proverbs is excellent for the whole family.

b. Have a hymn- or chorus of the month. Learn it as a family.

c. Use "prayer cards" for a family prayer time. Make these up yourself; and include your family, church family, unsaved, missionaries and your pastor.

d. Be brief. Don't attempt to make it a "church service." It is far better to be brief and consistent than drawn out and haphazard.

e. Involve the entire family. What you do will obviously vary with the age and stage of your children.

f. Use some variety. Reading through a good Christian biography can be helpful in your own personal walk.

g. Keep it informal, Biblical, and open for suggestion and improvement.

h. If you miss, don't always try to "catch up" but be sure to always go on!

Warning! Be careful that the atmosphere of your home at family altar time is not different to other times. That is hypocrisy, and will harm your children greatly.

Have Fun! It is a privilege to get to have time around the Word of God with your family. The moment it becomes a chore it has lost its meaning. The family altar is about growing. Growing closer to God as a family while growing closer to one another. The way God intended it.