

The family who is centered in Christ

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INTRODUCTION:

A. The lessons from this series:

1. 327_Introduction to the series about the family
2. 591_Marriage: Its purpose
3. 592_Marriage: Its permanency
4. 015_The man's role in marriage
5. 017_The woman's role in marriage
6. 498_A wife worth more than jewels
7. 244_When mommy is not home
8. 597_Loving intellectually
9. 598_The affectionate love
10. 599_Intimate love
11. 602_Communication
12. 604_Problems between husband and wife
13. 606_The responsibilities of parents and children
14. 608_Training our children: Instruction
15. 609_Training our children: Chastisement
16. 610_Training our children: Direction
17. 612_Biblical cases of fathers and sons
18. 611_The relationship between siblings
19. 440_What every youth wants in reality
20. 618_Courtship: Preparation for marriage
21. 021_The family who is centered in Christ

B. It is a great blessing to be born into a Christian family

1. In this real Christian home you will find love, harmony and peace.
2. It is a desirable and attractive place to be with loved ones and to have our friends.

C. The sad part and the true reality for most of the people is that the family it is only nothing more than a hotel where you get in at any time you want, a restaurant order the food you like and or a gas station where you fill your car tank and move on with your trip.

D. Happy and blessed be the home that has Christ as the center or foundation in their family!

1. It is a family that prays together
2. It is the family who studies the Bible together
3. It is the family who seeks the kingdom of God first before anything else!

[The family who is centered in Christ is...]

I. IT IS A FAMILY WHO PRAYS TOGETHER

A. This begins with the example of the parents (1 Peter 3:7)

1. This verse implies that the father and mother are praying together
2. Illustration, married couples pray for the necessities, wellbeing of others, etc

3. Families need to pray also for their family problems and or necessities
 - a. Notice **Proverbs 24:3** NAS77 – “**By wisdom** a house is built, and by understanding it is established”
 - b. If you lack wisdom, wisdom can be ask from God by way of prayer, **James 1:5** NAS77 – “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him”
 - c. Of course we need wisdom to make the right decisions, we need wisdom to guide our family, wisdom for marriage, wisdom on how to instruct and to bring up our children, etc.

B. The children also need to participate

1. Some families only pray at the table when about to eat a meal.
2. Others only pray in time of trouble, times of crises.
 - a. For examples, in automobile accidents, sickness, natural disaster, death of a love one, etc
 - b. Prayer at times is used as an emergency key
 - c. Therefore it is not a prayer made with faith (**James 1:6**), but it is a prayer as a last resource
 - d. If we want to God to hear us in our crises and distresses then we need to be in a good relationship with Him at all time (**Isaiah 55:6**). We seek the Lord while He can be found.
3. The members of the family need to pray for specific needs the family may have.
 - a. At the table before eating the meal
 - 1) Families today hardly eat together, due to business by parents or the family in general
 - 2) When praying always need to be grateful for the material things and spiritual things God has blessed us with, **1 Thessalonians 5:18** NAS77 – “in **everything** give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus”
 - b. Before taking a trip
 - c. When moving to another place
 - d. Pray in the time of sickness, death
 - e. Spiritual weakness, when in temptation

II. IT IS THE FAMILY WHO STUDIES THE BIBLE TOGETHER

A. In some houses the Bible is used as a family register

B. The importance of studying the word of God as a family

1. The family, the children need direction
 - a. The world offers no direction, the only direction the world offers is the direction to perdition
 - 1) There is so much per-pressure by co-workers, friends from school
 - 2) Movies, mass media (they make fun of authority of the parents and religion, etc.)
 - 3) Young people are disorientated, they do not know the way
 - b. The Bible the only guide for the young people, **Psalms 119:9** NAS77 – “How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Thy word”
 - 1) The good and the bad are represented clearly, **Psalms 19:7** NAS77 – “The law of the LORD is perfect, **restoring** the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple” Also see **Psalms 19:11** NAS77 – “Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward”
2. The purpose of Bible study is to remind them of the teaching of God (**2 Peter 3:1-2**), also see (**Exodus 12:26-27**). When they ask questions concerning:
 - a. The Lord's supper, our Passover
 - b. Why do we only sing?
 - c. Why do we give only the first day of the week and for what purpose?
 - d. Take note on the consequences of NOT remembering (**Judges 2:10**)

C. Therefore as parents we must make time to study together as a family

1. Look closely at **Deut. 6:6-7**, it is a way of life! Christianity is a way of life!
2. By way of example, notice the example Timothy's family
 - a. **2 Timothy 3:14-15** NAS77 – "You, however, continue in the things you have *learned* and become *convinced* of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*; **15** and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the *wisdom* that **leads to salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
 - b. **2 Timothy 1:5** NAS77 – "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well"
3. We often leave the teaching of our children to the church, as we have studied it is our responsibility to teach them.

III. IT IS THE FAMILY WHO SEEKS GOD FIRST!

A. Examples of the Old Testament

1. Abraham, **Genesis 18:19** NAS77 – "For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."
2. Joshua, **Joshua 24:15** NAS77 – "And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

B. When taking decisions in life

1. Consider the family of Lot (**Genesis 13:1-13**)
 - a. It was given to Lot the opportunity to chose where to live (vs. **1-9**)
 - b. Lot chooses the fertile area of the Jordan valley (vs. **10-11**)
 - c. Regardless of the wickedness of the people in that land (vs. **12b-13**)
2. Every decision has consequences whether good or bad in the case of the family of Lot...
 - a. Were not able to save their son-in-laws (**Genesis 19:14**)
 - b. Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt (**19:26**)
 - c. Lot's daughters commit incest (**19:31-38**)
3. The lessons from this event:
 - a. Lot was motivated by what he can see the physical, what is was good for the herds and instead of being what is best for the family in the spiritual.
 - b. It is not enough that the parents abstain from the sin of the world, **2 Peter 2:7-8** NAS77 – "and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men **8** (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day with *their* lawless deeds)"
 - c. We must then plan a moving (where are we going to move, etc.), plan our school activities, change of work, in everything we must have Jesus in the centered of all what we do.

C. The family who is centered in Christ, it is a family that is occupied in the spiritual things

1. Let us see the earthly **parents** of **Jesus**
 - a. Notice **Luke 2:42** NAS77 – "And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast"
 - b. The parents of Jesus were preoccupied in the custom of the feast according to the Law.
 - c. Today there is no Old Testament Law to be guided from nor do we follow any custom according to the Law of the Jews. There is a first day of the week (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2**) when the local church congregates.

- 1) When there are conflicts with work, scholar activities the church is first.
- 2) It is all about priorities.
2. **Priscilla and Aquila**
 - a. Taught others and speaking of Apollos, **Acts 18:26** NAS77 – “and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately”
 - b. Priscilla and Aquila opened their house for the worship of the Lord (**Romans 16:3-5a**)
3. The house of **Cornelius (Acts 10:2, 24, 33)**
 - a. He gathered his house to hear about the word of God, this was an important matter for him and for his household.
 - b. Today there is the necessity to make time for the family to hear the word of God.
 - 1) If possible attend a series of sermons in another local sound congregation or even here.
 - 2) Cornelius planned, he made time and we can certainly do the same as well!
4. The house of **Lydia (Acts 16:15)**
 - a. She practice the hospitality
 - 1) Today: it is good and Biblical to invite the preacher during a gospel meeting. Do not worry about what you do not have, we give and share what we have! And that is what it matters to God!
 - 2) Not only that but we invite other members of the congregation (**Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9**).
 - 3) The time Christians share as a family are not forgotten!
 - b. She opened her house for the church to meet there (**Acts 16:40**)
5. The house of **Stephanas (1 Cor. 16:15-16)**
 - a. “They have devoted themselves for the ministry of the saints”, they helped and worked
 - b. Today
 - 1) Help financially (**Hebrews 13:16; Galatians 6:6**)
 - 2) To offer house, donate material things, professional service, etc, (example of Manor Borland, certified mechanic)
 - 3) Opening house to teach, motivate others, to have fellowship with other Christians, sharing a meal, etc.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The family who has Christ in their lives and as the center of their family, it is a family who is and will be happy and will find peace.**
- B. Home is a sample of the blessings from the spiritual family**
- C. Our sons are going to learn from our earthly homes the joy to be part of the family of God.**
 1. Would you like to become part of the family of God?
 2. Will you then heed to the word of God? The choice is yours