

What is a Family?

Ephesians 6:1-4

Pastor Dave Bennett

Introduction – Foundations for a healthy family

Self-giving love

John 15:12,13

Humility

We believe that God is honored by homes where Christ is revered as head, where husbands and wives live in mutual respect and love, and where children are nurtured in Christ-like character. We believe that families are to welcome and embrace those who have no families, and to extend hospitality to the lonely and neglected. We see the church as a “family of families,” with families serving and loving people of all ages and stages.

I. A place of great potential

- A. Life lessons of obedience and respect
Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; Colossians 3:20
- B. An opportunity to please the Lord
- C. An opportunity to experience God's blessing

II. A place of great risk

- A. The risk of aggravation
- B. The risk of discouragement
Colossians 3:21

III. A place for growth and nurture

- A. Through discipline
Hebrews 12:5-11
 1. Discipline is a sign of love
 2. Discipline is a sign of relationship
 3. Discipline is painful
 4. Discipline is beneficial
Proverbs 29:17
I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9
- B. Through instruction
Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Daily Bible Readings

May 18-24

Follow-Throughs

- Monday John 15:9-17**
What expressions of love does Jesus mention in these verses? How did he show his disciples that he loved them? What might these aspects of love look like when translated into life in your home?
 - Tuesday James 4:1-10**
What are the roots of the conflicts that we often experience, at home and elsewhere? In what ways does humility contribute to unity? In what ways does pride play into the devil's hands and undermine unity? Confess any areas of prayerlessness and pride in your own home life.
 - Wednesday Colossians 3:1-21**
Review these verses about family in context of the verses that come earlier. Which quality of Christlikeness do you most desire to focus on today, especially in your life at home?
 - Thursday Hebrews 12:1-13**
What does the example of Jesus teach us about endurance through painful circumstances? In what ways can pain be an instrument of growth? In what ways might the Lord be disciplining you through the difficult circumstances you are experiencing? Are you willing to thank him, and to trust that he is loving you in the midst of these trials?
 - Friday Deuteronomy 6:1-25**
What instructions does Moses give the people of Israel? Which have particular reference to the home? How can you nurture an environment in your home in which love for the Lord and for his Word are central?
- ### Warm-Ups
- Saturday Acts 2: 42-47**
Peter's message had a profound effect as 3,000 people responded. What did they devote themselves to daily? What do you devote yourself to daily?
 - Sunday Act 2: 42-47**
What did these 3,000 converts end up doing? How is God with them? What were they devoting themselves to in their homes? How could you help your home to be more like this?