

~Script: Pastor Frank Johnson~

Father's Day, 2026

"Getting the Plans from the Architect"

Psalm 127

~Take a first look~

I. WHEN WE FINISHED COLLEGE IN OUR MID-TWENTIES, WE MOVED TO THE TOWN WHERE MY MOTHER LIVED. We wound up spending ten years there. Jeannie and I both helped found and taught at a Christian school there, and I became the pastor of the local Southern Baptist Church that hosted the school during that decade. When we began there, fresh out of university, I earned the fabulous salary of \$300 per month. We lived in my mother's home and shared all of our expenses so that we could make it on that much. It sounds like little now, and it sounded like little then, too! But I am not complaining. Those 10 years were some of the best of our lives.

I never gave my children allowance money or paid them for washing the car without saying, "Don't forget your offering." Why? Not because the church budget needed it. Their little bit may not have added up to very much. It was the principle. We were living then and now "as unto the Lord." Giving reminded us then and still reminds us that all we are and have are gifts from God.

II. THE FAMILY EXISTS FOR JUST SUCH A PURPOSE. When we look at it the way that God does, we see it as a laboratory to foster a Godly attitude and practice from generation to generation. The blueprints for that laboratory were drafted by God Himself. He is the Architect of the human family. We would do well to read those blueprints often.

~Take a closer look at Psalm 127~

I. THE ARCHITECT OF FAMILY LIFE WILL LAY A STRONG FOUNDATION. v. 1a

1. *He inspires a foundation of values based on eternity.* Obviously, when we contrast the temporary to the eternal, the eternal weighs much more.

A—When we turn the design of our lives over to our Creator, we learn to place value on what He does, whatever it may cost us personally.

I—He places a higher value on the truth than on our personal convenience. I remind you of the story of Daniel Crocker. On September 22, 1998, Daniel Crocker confessed to a murder he had committed 19 years before. Nobody had tracked him down. The FBI was not closing in on him. He just realized that it was the right thing to do before God. At that time, Crocker was 38 with a wife and two young children. 19 years earlier, he had been on a three-day high with LSD when he killed 19-year-old Tracy Fresquez shortly after meeting her in a convenience store. Few clues were left behind, and detectives admitted the case would have never been solved had Crocker not made his confession. Why did he come forward and give himself up?

Not long after that murder on October 6, 1979, Crocker realized he had to make serious changes in his life. He got off drugs and returned to the teachings of his Christian parents. He got involved in a church and started studying the Bible. By 1986, he married a woman from his church and they started a family. It was during that time that he read Proverbs 28:13, "He who

conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.”

During the summer of 1998, Crocker and his wife came to the consensus that he needed to confess his crime. He said good-bye to his two children and his wife, boarded a plane in his home in Virginia, and flew to Kansas City. A prearranged meeting with prosecutors took place shortly thereafter and now Crocker is serving a sentence of at least 10 years before he will be eligible for parole. His lawyer, Tom Bath, is amazed at Crocker’s confession. He said, “I have never seen anybody willing to risk so much to take responsibility for what he’s done.” District Attorney Paul Morrison admitted, “I’ve never seen anything like this.” Crocker simply says, “It is hard for me and my wife and our children, but it is the right thing to do.”

Because of Daniel Crocker’s relationship with the Architect of human and family life, he has chosen to set an example of responsibility for his children. He has placed a higher value in the truth and in doing what is right than in personal convenience.

2. *The Architect of the human family inspires a foundation of morals based on His character. Morals is a word that describes our individual and corporate sense of right and wrong. When God lays the foundation of the family, the moral base is clearly His character, not our preferences or choices.*

A—We must let God rebuild or reinforce our moral foundation.

I—**Syndicated columnist William Murchison wrote a book a few years ago entitled *Reclaiming Morality in America: Why Traditional Morals Are Collapsing and What You Can Do About It*.** In a chapter entitled “Heavens Above,” he writes, “As morality is the heart of culture, so religion is the heart of morality. We must firmly fuse all three. Is such an idea strange or un-American? Not in the least. Alexis de Tocqueville, the Frenchman who was early America’s keenest observer, found religion to be ‘more needed in democratic republics than in any others. How is it possible that society should escape destruction if the moral tie be not strengthened in proportion as the political tie is relaxed? And what can be done with a people which is its own master, if it be not submissive to the Divinity? Whilst the law permits the Americans to do what they please, religion prevents them from conceiving, and forbids them to commit what is rash or unjust’” (pp. 122-23). “Religion” for de Tocqueville, as for the founding generation of America, was the Christian religion. You may have noticed that when other religions, such as that espoused by the Muslim Brotherhood, or no religion, such as the atheism that is at the heart of Marxism/communism/socialism, become powerful, such inner restraint is unchecked. Islam teaches conquest and supremacy by whatever means necessary. Marxism teaches endless class struggle.

As Christianity flourishes, freedom and justice grow. Where it diminishes, tyranny threatens.

3. *The Architect of the human family also inspires a foundation of purpose based on His goals.*

A—When we turn over the control to the Architect of human family and personal life, we begin to see His purposes as best.

I—**Some years ago now, I was home feeling poorly one morning.** Jeannie was fussing over me, and I enjoyed it as long as my conscience would allow, and then I went into the office for the afternoon anyway.

At that time, we still subscribed to cable TV, and during that morning at home, we turned on *Live with Regis and Kathy Lee*. Throughout the program, they were interviewing people on the street and asking them this question: “Madonna just had her first child. What would you like to say to her?” She had offered the basketball player Dennis Rodman \$20 million to get her pregnant. The answers ranged from pop psychology to “Bah! Big Mistake!” The one that really caught my attention was the one from a woman who chuckled and then said, “Oh, I don’t know ...,” and then quickly added, “Get married!” Yes! Good answer. This is “from the perspective of the eternal,” not simply from the “popular opinion” perspective toward human morals and values.

God is the Inventor of the human family. He has designed it for the good of all involved. “Safe sex” can truly occur within a lifelong commitment of marital union between a man and a woman. Children are intended to be nurtured by loving moms and dads whose commitment to each other and to their children is never a matter for speculation.

II. THE ARCHITECT OF FAMILY LIFE WILL PROVIDE THE FAMILY PROTECTION. v. 1b

1. *This comes as the family trusts Him.* Our ultimate hope for the family and for the nation is the Living God.

A—We must trust Him to “watch over the city.”

2. *This comes as the family prays.* Nothing demonstrates and nurtures our faith like a consistent practice of prayer.

A—We must call out to Him constantly for His guidance and provision.

3. *This comes as He gives discernment.* Discernment is the ability to see what is good in contrast to what is evil and what is best from what is merely good.

A—We must ask God to help us discern what is truly morally pure, helpful to ourselves and our families, and pleasing to Him.

I—Let’s say you are preparing for a family vacation. You look at the ratings on a couple of resorts. One of them really stands out. Every member of the family could be doing just what he/she wants every minute of the day. There is a golf course, and dad really enjoys golf. There is a day spa which looks quite nice for mom. There is a gaming room with twenty different games. There is a craft room that is staffed all day. Wi-fi is available in every building. But then as you talk about your plan, you realize that though all those things look fun for each individual, they don’t really bring the family together much. You pray about it, and then you decide to go camping near a lake at a Christian camp where there is boating, biking, climbing, swimming, and daily worship. Camping requires some cooperation, gives you a chance to unplug from the semi-false digital world, and provides fresh air and wholesome recreation. It also gives you a greater appreciation for all you have from day to day: such as indoor plumbing and hot, clean water! Discernment helps not only in picking a destination, but also in choosing something that will benefit family relationships and our walk with God.

And since we are on the subject of vacations ..., note this, also.

III. THE ARCHITECT OF FAMILY LIFE ESTABLISHES PRIORITIES. vv. 2-5

1. *The balance of work and rest comes under His control.* v. 2. This is a difficult balance to strike, isn’t it? “He gives sleep to those He loves.” Are we receiving the gift, or are we trying to

crowd every waking hour with some activity that will make us more money or give us more pleasure?

A—We must allow God to control our schedules, including our time for sleep and work and service to Him.

I—While we were attending college, we struggled with our schedules, like many of you do and have. By the time I entered California Baptist College (now, University), I was 21, married, and the father of two sons. Michael was 1½ years old and Jeremy was about six months of age. I had never really learned how to study diligently, but with renewed motivation, I plunged in with my whole heart—and schedule. For the first semester, I studied every waking hour that I was not in class, at work, at church, or sleeping. We were miserable that spring semester. By the fall semester, after the summer break, we recognized that something was wrong. We decided that we would squeeze everything we could into the daytime hours, so that after I came home from work, from dinner time until the time the boys went to bed, I would not do any study. That saved our family life, I believe. We read books together, we played together, and we made things together. And my grades went up to nearly 4.0 and stayed there for the rest of my school career (with the exception of the semester when our daughter Melissa was born one week before it began 😊).

Looking back, I think that God simply blessed us because we struck a better balance between work, rest, and building relationships. Surely there is more to life than just the work we do.

2. *The worth and blessing of children come from His perspective. vv. 3-5.* Solomon recognized that children are as much of a blessing and a reward as arrows in the hands of a warrior.

A—We come to appreciate what children mean to us and to God’s purposes as we allow Him to be the Architect of our lives and families.

I—I read a book by Danielle Crittendon entitled *What Our Mothers Never Told Us: Why Happiness Eludes the Modern Woman* some years ago. She described the kind of woman that has received the proper feminist indoctrination, but who has not liked the results.

“They are the women who postponed marriage and childbirth to pursue their careers only to find themselves at thirty-five still single and baby-crazy, with no husband in sight. They are the unwed mothers who now depend upon the state to provide what the fathers of their children won’t—a place to live and an income to support their kids. They are the eighteen-year-old girls who believed they could lead the unfettered sexual lives of men, only to end up in an abortion clinic or attending grade twelve English while eight months’ pregnant.... They are the female partners at law firms who thought they’d made provisions for everything about their career—except for that sudden, unexpected moment when they find their insides shredding the first day they return from maternity leave, having placed their infants in a stranger’s arms. They are the young mothers who quit their jobs to be with their babies and who now feel anxiety and even a mild sense of embarrassment about what they have chosen to do—who look over their fences at the quiet backyards of two-career couples, wondering if they haven’t done a foolish thing, and feeling a kind of isolation their mothers never knew. Above all, these women are the majority of us, women who are hoping to do everything—work, children, marriage—only to ask

ourselves why the pieces haven't added up the way we'd like or why we are collapsing under the strain of it all and doing everything so badly."¹

Crittenden muses whether the tradeoffs being made are really an improvement: "The women who now leave their families every morning to board commuter trains—the women who have traded their housecoats for business suits, vacuums for computers, carpeted and upholstered living rooms for carpeted and upholstered offices, demanding, tantrum-throwing children for demanding, tantrum-throwing colleagues—may well wonder if they haven't simply traded in one form of unhappiness for another."²

It seems that Psalm 127 addresses the modern woman as well as the modern man. All of us can be tempted to value children less that God does, to our peril ... and to theirs.

I—In *Proclaim* magazine, Pastor James Densman told about a lady who taught him the value of children during the late 70's in Austin, Texas. The lady was a member of the church of which he was pastor. She was terminally ill. She was spending her final days in Holy Cross Hospital there in Austin. She was 39 years old and had a young daughter at home, who was then in the third grade. He says, "We were discussing how life changes when children come along. Our discussion included how spotless the house is before and how we come to accept sticky fingers, dirty clothes, and fingerprints on the walls after children come along. Then she said, 'How I wish I could see some of those fingerprints on the wall just one more time.' She died a few days later."³

~Take it home~

I. It is the Architect of the family that helps us see how valuable and rewarding having children can be.

II. It is the Architect of the family who can help us strike the right balance between work, rest, service to God, and building relationships.

III. It is the Architect of the family who can help us find our way when we are lost. He sent His Son to find us. "I have come to seek and to save what was lost," He said Himself (cf. Luke 19:10). Have we allowed Him to find us?

1. Grace is God seeking us, though we don't deserve it.
2. Faith is our empty hands receiving that grace, mercy, and forgiveness.
3. Confession of faith in life and service, is our expression of that relationship of grace and faith.

¹ Danielle Crittenden, *What Our Mothers Didn't Tell Us: Why Happiness Eludes the Modern Woman* (Simon and Shuster, 1999), pp. 20-21.

² P. 24.

³ *Proclaim*, OND 96, p. 30.