

The Family and Home

Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

Suggested Memory Verses

- 1 Corinthians 11:1
- 1 Corinthians 13:13
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

Purpose: To see what god intends for the family who wears the name "Christian."

Question: Is it important to balance all your relationships if you want to be effective in your discipleship of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

I. Instructions (in Brief)

A. Colossians 3:18-21

1. verse 18 - wives
2. verse 19 - husbands
3. verse 20 - children
4. verse 21 - fathers

B. Ephesians 5:22-6:4 (elaborated)

1. verses 22-24, 33 - wives
2. verses 25-33 husbands
3. chapter 6:1-3 – children
4. verse 4 - fathers (represents "God-image") encourage

Don't.....

- a. Abuse (physical/emotional/spiritual)
- b. Neglect
- c. Lack of communication
- d. Expect too much
- e. Force them to accept our goals, etc.

Do.....

- a. Direct teaching and instruction of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)
- b. Lead by example (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Question: In all my relationships, my main focus or goal should be to (Circle one):

1. Make sure the other individual is doing what is right
2. Wait to see if the other party does what they promised, before I do what I promised
3. Fulfill my responsibilities with a good attitude, regardless of what the other does or does not do

(The Family and Home Continued)

II. Marks of a New Testament Home (1 Corinthians 13:13)

A. Faith - the capacity to believe God (Hebrews 11:1)

1. When have your children really observed your faith? *(Some child is watching you. What is he or she learning about your faith?)*

2. What is the first thing you do in a crisis?

3. Have you ever done anything together that really tested your faith?

BIG QUESTION: What are your children learning about faith from your lifestyle?

B. Hope - relates to eternal destiny (1Peter 1:3-7) It composes our steadfastness and faithfulness.

1. How secure are you in your hope in Christ?

2. What is the primary focus of your life?

BIG QUESTION: What are your children learning about hope from your lifestyle?

C. Love - Christ-likeness (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

1. How specifically do you show your love?

2. As a husband and wife, how loving are you toward each other?

3. How loving are you toward your child?

BIG QUESTION: What are your children learning about Christ-likeness (love) from you?

The Home and Family in the New Testament is in reality the Church in miniature. What was written to the church was written to the family. (1Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2)

(The Home and Family Continued)

III. Family Nurture

- A. Communicate (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
 1. Formally (devotions -reading the Word together, sharing, praying)
 2. Living it with them (as they walk, sit, etc.)
 3. Diligently (verse 7; takes work and wisdom)

- B. Discipline? Biblical? Yes!
 1. Hebrews 12:1-11
 - 2.. How? - That's your decision. As you go to God, He will give you wisdom. (James 1:5)

- C. How responsible is each parent in the goal of nurturing their family?
 1. Physically?

 2. Emotionally?

 3. Spiritually?

What does the word *responsibility* mean? (Clue: Find the two words in *responsibility*.)

VI. Purpose of the Family

- A. To reveal the glory of God to all men and proclaim Christ.
- B. What factors cause a home to be a vibrant testimony?
 1. The factors are clear (Colossians 3:18-21)
 - a. wives submit
 - b. husbands love
 - c. children obey -Luke 2:41-51 (Jesus), 2 Timothy 3:1-5
 - d. fathers encourage
 2. This process produces
 - a. unity
 - b. oneness
 - c. bridge to the world (testimony)

CHALLENGE: Discuss how you can, as a family, carry out the following commitment

As a family, we will do all we can to be a dynamic witness in our community, beginning by having each member of the family fulfill his or her God-ordained role or responsibility.

Remember, in all relationships, whether they be with Jesus, the church, my spouse, my children, neighbors, coworkers, etc., the important question I must always ask is, WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY?