

# THE FUNCTION OF A FAMILY

## A FAMILY AND MINISTRY SERIES INTRODUCTION

*"(For if a man know not how to rule his own house,  
how shall he take care of the church of God?)"*

*~ 1 Timothy 3:5*

### 1. Introduction – Why This?

- a. A popular subject we do not directly visit too often. Why?
  - i. 1) The Bible is a big book, with many other topics.
  - ii. 2) The focus of scripture is not "how to have a happy home"
  - iii. 3) Preaching Christ in you should be affecting your relationships in the home
  - iv. 4) It is personal. There is not a one-size-fits-all personal application of doctrine.
- b. However, doctrine must be personally applied, and ...
  - i. Going to the doctor does not make you healthy.
  - ii. The church can help – but you must make the habitual personal choice.
  - iii. The real issue behind "problems at home" is a failure in personal application.
- c. The series: Function of family; Women, men, children in ministry; godliness at home; ministry success at home translated to the church.

### 2. Church and Family are Different

- a. Something more important than family? Yes. Lk 14:26
  - i. Jesus came dividing families – Mt 10:34-37
  - ii. Christ applying family language to the remnant – Mt 23:8, Mk 3:33-35, 10:29-30
- b. Family language used in the body of Christ → Gal 6:10, Eph 2:19, 3:15, 1 Tim 5:2, 3:15
- c. There is a home that is not the church → Titus 2:4-5, 1 Cor 11:22
- d. The church is all in Christ, your family may or may not be all in Christ – 2 Cor 5:17
- e. Church is no substitute for family (1 out of 7), family is a great place for ministry.
- f. The "family" is already there – we learn about relationships in the church from family.
- g. Before you can minister outside the home you must minister in it – 1 Tim 3:5, 5:4, 5:14

### 3. The Function of Family

- a. God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply – Gen 1:28
- b. What makes families dysfunctional? What is their function?
- c. A functional family → Eph 5:29, 6:4 – Love is the domain of the family.
  - i. Nurture = to promote growth, support, supply, educate by feeding and provision.
  - ii. Cherish = to give affection, love, hold dear, protect.
  - iii. Admonish = instruct, warn, counsel, correct, guide, advise in life's responsibilities
- d. If any provide not, he is worse than an infidel, he hath denied the faith - 1Tim 5:8
- e. Marriage – How God intended to naturally teach love and grace (to others)
- f. Children – How God intended to naturally teach love and sacrifice (to parents)
- g. Family – How God intended to naturally teach love while growing up (toward children)
- h. Bad news – the church is not a replacement for your family, your household.
- i. Good news – you can be complete in Christ – Col 2:10, 2 Tim 1:13
- j. You can receive in Christ what your family failed to provide – Rom 5:8, 1Ti 1:14, Ti 3:2-5