

Lesson 35

Teacher's Manual

FAMILY TOGETHERNESS - PART II

READ & MEDITATE ON: Deuteronomy 6:6-7 MEMORIZE: Proverbs 22:6
Ephesians 6:4

INTRODUCTION

Although the Bible occasionally speaks specifically on the home, it has much more to say on the Church—the larger family of God. In Colossians, Paul makes four concise statements in four short verses (Colossians 3:18-21). Only four verses out of ninety-five in the whole epistle are devoted specifically to the home. In the Ephesians epistle, only sixteen verses out of one hundred fifty-five are devoted directly to the family (Ephesians 5:22-6:4). The question that naturally arises is, "Why is so little said about the home?" The fact is that much is said about home life because the family is the Church in miniature. We find numerous references to "household churches" (see Romans 16:3-5; I Corinthians 16:19; and Philemon 2). The truth is: as goes the family unit, so goes the church community, so goes the nation. The same corporate faith, hope, and love displayed in a mature church must also be the ingredients of a happy home. As Christ is the Head of the Church so He must be the central figure in the home. Directives to the Church should be received by the family which was originally a foreshadow and type of the New Testament church body.

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I. FAMILY RECREATION

One important aspect of family life is to be able to relax and enjoy each other in outings together. If a family can work together, then they should be able to relax and play together. The statement is still true, "All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy."

A. Family Outings

These should be something that all the family can enjoy.

1. Consider Everyone

Be sure and consider each member of the family. If there are children involved, be sure and consider them.

2. Take Turns

Take turns letting each member of the family choose the place or thing they enjoy doing.

B. Spiritually Uplifting

Be sure it will be something that does not harm you or hinder you spiritually. Be sure to check with the pastor to see if he approves of the particular activity. This is wise because parents need to lead their family in the right direction and according to what their shepherd teaches. If they do as the Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go..." that is doing according to what they are taught. The scripture says, "Obedience is better than sacrifice" (I Samuel 15:22).

C. Wholesome Recreation

There is a lot of good wholesome recreation that can be enjoyed. Be sure to do something with your family.

1. Husband And Wife

There needs to be some time when both of you get away and enjoy some activity together. You need this time alone. If there are children, get a babysitter and have a night out for just the two of you. Never get so busy that you don't have time for each other.

2. Children

We need to have time for our children. If we come into the church with our children already participating in worldly activities, then it will be quite an adjustment for them. Just remember that not only did you have an adjustment to

If there are children in our homes, we must encourage them to become involved in meaningful church activities. Even when they become teenagers, it is our place to see that they are still faithful to God's house. Sometimes we may feel because they seem to be mature and old enough to make their own decisions, that we may allow them to choose for themselves. The Bible does not say to take and train them for awhile, but it says:

"Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart
from it."

Proverbs 22:6

This word train does not mean you give them a choice. There was never a soldier in the army who got to choose if he would get up in the morning or whether he would drill with the others. This was all part of the army and he didn't have a choice; and if he disobeyed orders, he was punished. We, as parents, do not have a choice if we want God's blessings and His promises to apply to our children.

"He that spareth the rod hateth his son:
but he that loveth him chasteneth him
betimes."

Proverbs 13:24

It is not easy to make them do what goes against the grain, but it is the most blessed. We don't allow our children to have a lot of candy or a lot of junk foods, because we know it is not good for them. Neither do we let our children stay away from church involvement as long as they live under our roof.

B. Faithfulness To Wholesome Fellowship

Secondly, not only are we supposed to be faithful in our worship, but it is to our benefit and strength to be involved in wholesome fellowship. "Birds of a feather flock together," and "You are known by the company you keep." It is a proven fact that you will pick up the habits and ways of the people you are around (see Proverbs 22:24-25). Therefore, you need to have healthy, wholesome fellowship with the real children of the Lord. It is easy to live for God hard, but it is hard to

it was only for their benefit, so they could maintain the innocent spirit about life itself.

Throughout the Scripture, the Lord would take time to point out simple ways that would help individuals keep away from danger. God is concerned about you and your welfare, mentally, physically, and spiritually. He wants you to realize that if you follow His directives, He will keep you from needless problems in life.

By developing a spirit of unconcern, we become self-centered like Cain. For after Cain killed his brother, Abel, who loved the ways of the Lord—God asked him, "Where is thy brother?" He was very disrespectful when he snapped, "I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). If he would have maintained a spirit of respect, he would have kept the blessing of the Lord and his brother would have been alive for good companionship.

B. Respect For God's Commandments

With a spirit of respect in Egypt, the Jewish fathers properly slayed the Lamb according to the commandment of God, and escaped death in their home. The Egyptians did not believe; therefore, the first born in each house was slain at midnight. Proper respect would have changed all of this (see Exodus 12).

C. Respect For God's Rules

When David was in the process of bringing the Ark of God back to Jerusalem, they became so excited that they forgot the rules of proper respect for the way God wanted it done. When Uzza reached up to stabilize the Ark of God with his hand, he was slain. There must be special respect for the will of God because He knows the end from the beginning. He really knows what you and I need. What God was saying to us in typeology is that you do not manhandle the church, the Spirit, or the man of God with carnal ways and means. (See II Samuel 6:6-9.)

As a new believer in the Lord, walking in all the respect for His Word, Spirit and will—you need to be careful to abstain from the appearance of evil, create an atmosphere for Godly living—no matter what any old friend would have you think. God knows what is best for you.

D. Disrespect For Sacred Things

Due to impatience and disrespect, King Saul (knowing the prophet was on his way to perform the will of God) offered up a sacrifice which was not his place to do. He lost the anointing of God upon his life and had to try to rule Israel without divine favor. (See I Samuel 13:8-14.)

E. Respect For God's Instructions

God does not leave room for individuals to change baptisms, salvation, or any other part of His will just because they do not consider His way first. He left a beautiful instruction for all of us in Holy Writ; and if we will follow it carefully, we will make it to heaven.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

live for God easy. If you are totally involved in every phase of the church, you will find strength and others will help you by their positive peer pressure. It is hard to live for God easy when you won't mix with the people of the Lord and you continue to keep your worldly friends. This environment will soon drag you down; but, if you stay involved in church functions, and mix with Holy Ghost filled saints of the Lord, then you can grow. It will help answer questions for you and also the devil won't be able to put so many negative doubts in your mind. The Scripture says:

"...for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

II Corinthians 6:14-17

It is the people who don't participate that have so many spiritual problems. They are not involved enough to satisfy their spiritual needs, so they begin to search elsewhere. If we fully involve ourselves in the church, we will find fulfillment.

CHART-66

III. THE SPIRIT OF RESPECT

A. Revival Of Respect

We live in a day when there is very little respect for the true things of God. If new converts need any thing added to their spiritual life, it is a revival of respect. When God spoke to Adam and Eve about their disobedience in the garden,

make, but, no doubt, your children will have to make a greater adjustment. Remember all the time you spent taking them places and seeing that they were involved...well, how much more should you see that you have time to take your children places and do things with them now as a Christian family.

Never allow your child to do anything (even if you feel it is all right) that is preached against by your shepherd. When you do this, it causes children to be rebellious. They feel that if you condone this against what is preached, then all the other things he preaches are not important and they have the right to do whatever they wish.

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II. CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

There is no greater joy than the joy that comes when you are involved in church work, church visitation, church parties or church functions of any kind. When you are involved in the church, the spiritual nature of man is being satisfied. When you served the devil, you involved yourself in every possible phase of the devil's work activities: worldly pleasures, amusement, or whatever was offered you. How much more should we be involved in the spiritual activities in order to fill our spiritual man with wholesome things. This way the devil cannot tempt us with such sayings as, "There is nothing to do"; or, "What do you do for fun?"; or, "Where do you people go?"

A. Faithfulness To Services

First, our responsibility is to be faithful to every church service. We must learn that if we fail to come to God's table to eat the spiritual food that God has given His minister, we will become spiritually lean and soon lose out with God. Just as the carnal man cannot refrain from eating very long without growing weak, neither can the spiritual man refrain from eating spiritual food regularly without growing weak. We must learn, in the very early stages of our spiritual life, that faithfulness to God's house is our means of spiritual survival.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

