

The Family Altar

Week 8 - The Altar (9-8-21)

1 Corin. 12:12-18

I. The Family Unit

A. Stronger Together

1. Ecc. 4:12
2. Matt. 18:19-20
3. 2 Corin. 13:1
4. The enemy recognizes the power of the family unit more than we do.
 - a) he attacks the message, the messenger, and the method
 - (1) one very powerful method is the family being united in it's pursuit of God.
 - (2) There is discourse and division in our culture (and the church) like never before.
 - b) Recognize who the enemy really is! - 1 Peter 5:7-8
 - c) There is power in people being united for the same purpose! Especially a family.
 - (1) Tower of Babel - Gen. 11: 6
 - (2) Acts 4:31-33

B. Setting the atmosphere

1. Matt. 18:19-20
2. Regular family prayer creates a familiar atmosphere of God's presence, and it doesn't feel uncomfortable or awkward.
 - a) 2 Chronicles 7:1-3
 - b) we can choose to allow the presence of God saturate our homes and churches.
 - c) What is the atmosphere of your home?

C. Passing down traditions of love for God

1. Judges 2:7-11
2. Psalm 78:1-8
 - a) "What's being produced in our society is the result of what's being prioritized in our homes." DL
 - (1) "Our first and most important work is in our homes." DL
3. Modeling At the Altar
 - a) Setting a family tradition to spend time at the altar. To take prayer seriously and recognized it's power.
 - b) We model by example.
 - (1) Teaching them the importance of loving and pursuing God by doing that and making it a priority in front of them.
 - (2) Not forcing them to follow rules and traditions but to love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.
 - (a) **Rules** without **Relationship** always = **Rebellion**
 - c) It won't be important to them until it's important to you

II. Four Corners of The Family Altar

A. Mark 2:1-12

1. Grace and Mercy are two sides of one coin called “love”
 - a) **Mercy** = When God doesn’t give you what you do deserve
 - (1) Jesus forgave his sins first
 - (2) Mercy puts us in a place to receive grace
 - (3) Give and receive mercy at the family altar
 - b) **Grace** = When God gives you what you don’t deserve
 - (1) Healing came
 - (2) Grace empowers us to move forward by faith - Eph. 2:7-8
 - (3) Give and receive grace at the family altar
2. **Love** - “...The greatest of these is love.” 1 Corin. 13:13
 - a) Love never fails! The love that these men had for their friend did not fail him.
 - (1) The love that Jesus had for this man did not fail him.
 - b) Love does not require approval.
 - (1) Love will be tough and tell you what you need to hear.
3. **Faith** - “Without faith it is impossible to please Him...” Hebrews 11:6
 - a) Faith works by love - Galatians 5:6
 - b) Faith without works is dead - James 2:17
 - (1) This man’s friends worked hard in faith to get him to Jesus. Their faith was visible. - “When Jesus saw their faith...”
 - (2) The man also had to use his own faith to take up his bed and walk
 - (a) we can’t live on everyone else’s faith forever!

Is your family altar tipsy?

Is there a corner that is missing or weak?