

God's Will For Your Family

Thy Will Be Done - Week 11 (8-9-23)

Gen. 2:21-24 and 1:27-28

I. Reflect God's Image

A. Relationally

1. The family unit is a great representation of what our relationship with God the Father and His Son Jesus should look like.
2. Marriage Relationship
 - a) 2 Corin. 11:2 - We are espoused (betroth; promised in marriage) to Christ
 - b) Eph. 5:22-33
3. A Father's love
 - a) Matt. 7:7-11 - Fathers give good gifts to their children
 - b) The prodigal son - Example of a father's desire for his son's presence. A love that looks beyond any wrongs done and simply seeks connection.
 - (1) If the fathers of this world could even start to exemplify this part of God's heart the cultures in just the U.S. would be much different.
 - (2) Psalm 103:13 - "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him."
 - (a) Pitieth = also translated a loves, shows compassion, and has mercy
4. Children to their parents.
 - a) Eph. 6:1-4

B. The church is to be reflecting God's image and glory into the earth.

1. Matt. 6:10 - We are taught to pray God's kingdom and God's will into the earth.
2. This starts with the family
 - a) 1 Timothy 3:4-5 - If things can't be set in their proper place and the most basic level then things will not function properly in higher levels. This is why the health and functionality of the family unit is so important.
 - b) Healthy and strong families will contribute to a healthy and strong church.

II. Unity

A. Husband and wife being united as one flesh

1. We should strive for the same unity with God as individuals.
2. We should strive to be in unity with the church through the spirit of God.
3. We should strive to be in unity in our personal families through the spirit of God.

B. Psalm 133

1. It's in the place of unity that the anointing and life of God flows

C. The Unity of the family unit is what determines the unity of the rest of the church.

1. Unity involves connection, identity, and building up of one another.
2. Harvest Prayer Ministries - Unity involves connection, identity, and building up of one another. Only in unity are we able to carry out relationships in ways that honor

God. In order for unbelievers to know the love of Christ is to see the unified loving families that comprise Jesus' church.

D. Malachi 4:6 and Luke 1:14-17

1. By bringing families and generations back together in heart, The Lord will prepare His people for His presence.

E. Keys to Unity

1. Everyone knows the common goal
 - a) Acts 4:31-33 and 5:12 - one heart and one soul
2. Doing things together - Working, playing, praying, worshiping
 - a) Hebrews 10:24-25
3. Safe environment to learn, grow, and be honest with each other.
 - a) Eph. 4:1-7

III. Reproduce

A. Joshua 24:15 and Judges 2:8-11

1. The family unit is God's primary instrument for carrying on His legacy, blessing, and promises on into the future.
2. As a family we are to reproduce and spread the likeness and presence of God. Dominate the earth with His presence and fire!
 - a) By reproducing a heart for God in our children we then set them up to do the same thing in their own future families.

B. Duet. 6:4-9

1. Take note that we must first love God on all levels for ourselves before we can teach His words to our children.
2. The family is the most powerful educational system there is.
 - a) No school system (no matter the quality of the school) can take the place of the education that should be taking place in the home.
 - (1) You cannot rely on any school system to educate your children. You as the parent are solely responsible for the upbringing of your children.

Traits of a successful family

1. Expressing appreciation.
2. Time together.
3. Encouragement of individuals.
4. Communication.
5. Ability to adapt.
6. Religious/spiritual orientation.
7. Social connectedness.
8. Commitment to family.
9. Clear roles.