

I. WHAT DO I MEAN BY FAMILY WORSHIP?

A regular and planned time with and as a family in which there is the intake of God's Truth, prayer before God's throne, and singing to God's glory.

- 1.) The who
 - o With and as a family – either as husband/wife or parent(s)/children
 - o Distinct from individual worship (devotions/quiet time) and corporate (church) worship
- 2.) The what
 - o Intake of God's Truth
 - o Prayer before God's Throne
 - o Singing to God's glory
- 3.) The when
 - 1.) Regular (as opposed to irregular)
 - 2.) Planned (as opposed to haphazard)

II. WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL WARRANT FOR FAMILY WORSHIP?**A. The Biblical Responsibilities of the Head of the Household Necessitates Some Kind of Family Worship**

- Genesis 18:19 The call of Abraham to command and teach his children and household
- Joshua 24:15 As for me and my house...
- The home is to be an incubator for godliness, and we should not rely on the church or Christian school to do it for us
- Psalms 118:15 The voice of rejoicing and salvation *Is* in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.
- 1Timothy 5:8 Provide for his own household; primary context for physical need; from all we know of Scripture, is physical provision supreme? Is there also spiritual provision?

B. The Biblical Responsibilities of the Husband to His Wife Necessitates Some Kind of Family Worship

- Ephesians 5:23ff the assumption is that the husband is instructing and leading from the Word of God (v.26), and using that Word to nourish and give her comfort.
- 1Peter 3:7 dwelling together with her as a fellow-heir (some men talk more to others about the Word than their wife).
- 1Corinthians 14:35 let her ask her own husband at home
- To nourish and cherish; to be the head, including leading and instructing in God's will for their life

C. The Biblical Responsibilities of the Father to His Children Necessitates Some Kind of Family Worship

- Deuteronomy 6:4ff two-faceted approach of both general and focused instruction.
- Ephesians 6:4 Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (i.e. His Word).
- The instructions were not to men with theology degrees, experts in Scripture, but common men. These were to men who themselves (contrary to you) did not have their private copies of the Scriptures.
- This things I must bind to your conscience. Brothers, this is your responsibility. To not do so is sin, and needs to be dealt with as such.
- From my experience the man who is neglecting family worship is neglecting the spiritual well being of his family, despite his taking them to church, homeschooling, sending them to a Christian school and praying for them.
- Illustration: Analogy w/biblical counseling - what is being done with it the other 6 days of the week? The Lord's Day is not the "magic hour", but needs to be reinforced. Otherwise, we are creating hypocrites.
- As members of this church, this is part of your covenant commitment:
We will endeavor to bring up those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends.

Question: What if I travel? Then direct wife. If only wife, make phone call.

Question: What if my husband is not available? If a man will not step up to the plate, or is not available, then a woman should take up that responsibility. This is what Timothy's mother and grandmother did (2Timothy 1:5 3:15).

III. SOME PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING FAMILY WORSHIP

- It is out of these principles and responsibilities that the question arises of "how?" We move from what God commands to suggestions as to how to work this out. These are suggestions.
- **The Word** - Do not try to come up with "new" material; use own devotional reading, reading the Bible together, some helpful book (we can give recommendations), review of Sunday sermon notes, videos.
- **Prayer** - Specific things within the family. Confessing sins to one another. Desire to glorify God in every aspect of life. Use of church directory.

- **Singing** - Choosing a hymn or song to sing (memorize for younger children).

 - Seek to establish the practice early in your marriage. It may not be every single day, but regular.
 - Be aware of the ages of your children and use appropriate language/stories. Have reasonable expectations (not all sitting around in raptured silence), but use to teach them to sit and listen in preparation for worship on Sunday.
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- You may not like these suggestions, but your objections to the particular suggestions do not negate the responsibility itself. If you won't do it this way, then how?
 - There are three reasons you men are not doing something in this regard: *ignorance* (no more...I can give more direction if needed), *neglect* (lack of priority and discipline...James 4:17), *disregard* (Galatians 6:7 what you sow you will reap in salvation and relationships).
 - If not regular, which is it for you? Respond appropriately. There need to be confession (to God and family) and repentance (change). Some plan worked out and immediately attempted, not "some day." What will you do this week to implement these things?
 - For those who do, they will testify of the difficult and blessing of this.