

**“Teaching Repentance in Family Worship”; Session # 7 on Family Worship,
Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 4th, 2014,
in the Adult Sunday School.**

I. Teach your children the attitudes of grace.

Luke 15: 11-32 - The older son said to his father that he had never transgressed his father's command at any time, and yet his father had never had a party for him that he might make merry with his friends. He complains that as soon as the other son had come back from the far country, he killed the fatted calf for him. But the Father's response was: "Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours." "It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for our brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."

a. What was the older son's problem?

1. He was comparing himself with the younger son and what the younger son received from the father.
2. He was angry with his father because he thought that he had kept all the commandments and deserved the party and the fatted calf.
3. He did not understand that it takes grace to keep the commandments from right motives; that is of trying to please God by and through the grace which is received only through Christ Jesus.
4. The attitude of the father in explaining grace to the older son is the pattern that we should use with all of our children.

b. The father displayed God's grace in all of his words and actions.

(This is how a father ought to govern his family, and how he ought to conduct family worship.)

1. He was a giving, loving father in relation to financial things. He was not stingy. His being a graciously giving father in financial things did not mean that he did not try to communicate wise financial principles to his son, of how he should be a good steward of money, or how he should be frugal. But evidently his son did not listen to him in regard to these things.
2. He communicated his love to his son in such a way that even when his son was in the depths of his sin, he knew that he could return to his father and his father would receive him.
3. He was always looking for his son's return; an indication that he was praying often for him.
4. When he heard the words of repentance coming from his wayward son, he brought out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. In other words, he showed forth the nature of grace to his son, by his actions, and what he gave him.
5. He showed God his thankfulness for the grace that was given to his son to return home and humble himself, speaking of his unworthiness. He showed forth this thankfulness to God by having the fatted calf killed and ordering everyone to be merry. There was even music and dancing. All these actions showed forth to everyone who knew of the son's return, the fact that the father had received him back with joy, when he heard his words of repentance.
6. He explained to the older son why he had done these things in this way. It was right that they should make merry and be glad, for the younger brother had been dead spiritually, and now he was alive spiritually. He was lost spiritually, and now he was found spiritually.

II. Family Worship is a good place to teach that Christ's grace is necessary to their repentance.

a. Explain to them that all people need to repent, especially those who think that they are better than others.

Luke 13: 1-5

b. Show them from the Bible that it will take the grace of Christ for them to repent. Acts 11: 1-18

III. Explain to them the types of Christ from the Old Testament Scriptures

Exodus 12: 21-28 –

“Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?', that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' " So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.”

a. The Passover was a type of Christ's sacrifice at the cross. This ordinance was observed in all the families of Israel. The picking out of the lamb, the slaying of the lamb, the striking of the lintel and the doorposts with the hyssop dipped in blood; all this was done according to Lord's instruction relayed on to the children by father's instruction and inculcated as family worship.

b. The fulfillment of the Passover was found in Christ's sacrifice and His blood, which we remember in the Lord's Supper. 1st Corinthians 5: 6-8 It is Christ's finished work which is the basis of all of our repentance.

Joel Beeke on Implementing Family Worship, the Section on Biblical instruction – (Taken from Issue #118 of the Free Grace Broadcaster)

Be plain in meaning: Ask your children if they understand what you are reading. Be plain in applying scriptural texts. The 1647 Church of Scotland Directory provides counsel here: “The Holy Scriptures should be read ordinarily to the family; and it is commendable, that thereafter they confer, and by way of conference, make some good use of what hath been read and heard. As, for example, if any sin be reprov'd in the word read, use may be made thereof to make all the family circumspect and watchful against the same; or if any judgment be threatened that portion of scripture which is read, use may be made to make all the family fear lest the same or a worse judgment befall them, unless they beware of the sin that procured it: and finally, if any duty be required, or comfort held forth in a promise, use may be made to stir up themselves to

employ Christ for strength to enable them for doing the commanded duty, and to apply the offered comfort in all which the master of the family is to have the chief hand; and any member of the family may propose a question or doubt for resolution” (par. III).

Encourage family dialogue around God’s Word in line with the Hebraic procedure of household question and answer (cf. Exodus 12; Deuteronomy 6; Psalm 78). Especially encourage teenagers to ask questions: draw them out. If you don’t know the answers, tell them so; and encourage them to search for answers. Have one or more good commentaries on hand, such as those by John Calvin, Matthew Poole, and Matthew Henry. Remember, if you don’t provide answers for your children, they will get them elsewhere—and often those will be wrong answers. Be pure in doctrine: Titus 2:7 says, “In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity.” Don’t abandon doctrinal precision when teaching young children; aim for simplicity and soundness.

Be relevant in application: Don’t be afraid to share your experiences when appropriate, but do that simply. Use concrete illustrations. Ideally, tie together Biblical instruction with what you recently heard in sermons.

Be affectionate in manner: Proverbs continually uses the phrase “my son,” showing the warmth, love, and urgency in the teachings of a God-fearing father. When you must administer the wounds of a father-friend to your children, do that with heartfelt love. Tell them you must convey the whole counsel of God because you can’t bear the thought of spending eternity apart from them. My father often said to us with tears: “Children, I cannot miss any of you in heaven.” Tell your children: “We will allow you every privilege an open Bible will allow us to give you—but if we say no to you, you must know that flows out of our love.” As Ryle said: “Love is one grand secret of successful training. Soul love is the soul of all love.”

Require attention: Proverbs 4:1 says, “Hear, ye children, the instruction a father, and attend to know understanding.” Fathers and mothers have important truths to convey. You must demand a hearing for God’s truths in your home. That may involve repeated statements at the beginning like these: “Sit up, son, and look at me when I’m talking. We’re talking about God’s Word, and God deserves to be heard.” Don’t allow children to leave their seats during Family Worship.