

The Importance of Family Worship (Joshua 24)

- A further application of Mark 10: 14-16 "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Focus on family worship
- False assumption that leading family in worship is the church's responsibility
- Key reason: as many Christian marriages failing as non Christian marriages failing
- As goes the home so goes the nation: foundation for the well being of society

I. A Biblical Foundation for Family Worship

- The Apostle John testifies that God's triune life is inseparable from His eternal love
- This perfect love is continually flowing out to and reciprocated by the Triune God
- God is transcendent, separated from us but never selfcentered, solitary or isolationist
- Our families are a faint reflection of the family life of the holy Trinity (Eph 3: 14)

II. Our Obligation or Call to Family Worship

- The duty of family worship flows out of this theology & it clearly seen in the Bible
- Joshua 24:14,15 "as for me and my family...we will serve the Lord." Note 3 things
 - 1). Joshua doesn't make worship & service to the living God optional in this text
 - 2) Joshua enforces the service of God by his own example, his own leadership
 - 3) He implies here special aspects of worship: sacrifices, the Word of God, singing
- Family worship has 3 elements: 1) instruction in the Word 2) praying 3) singing

III. The Practice or Implementation of Family Worship

- Avoid two extremes: and idealistic approach and a minimalistic approach
- Family worship takes preparation: It involves the what, the where and the when
- The What: how are we going to bring God's Word across practically apply it
- The Where: wherever it is exercised it must be deliberate & have no distractions
- Then When: have enough time to explain and apply the word & aim for consistency

IV. Our Primary Motivation for Family Worship

- There are no excuses for neglecting family worship: lost your temper, tired etc.
- We teach our children especially when we are sinful and weak we need God's grace
- How we read & teach the Scriptures to our children matters & has a lasting impact
 - 1) Have a plan: a yearly plan for the family & your children to read the Bible yearly
 - 2) Be plain in your meaning: Work hard at bringing the Word down to their level
- Challenge your children, ask questions and dialogue with them about it (Deut 6:7)