

The Church at Home

Family Worship

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY WORSHIP

A. Family Worship has an old history: Genesis 4:26; Gen. 8:20; 12:8; 18:18

B. As parents we are *primarily* responsible to evangelize our children

1. Eph. 6:4 *And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*

Prov. 6:20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother

C. Family worship is a foundational or primary means of saving grace

1. Converting hearts is God's exclusive work (Eph. 2:1-4)
2. Yet God has willed to work out His sovereign will through the use of ordinary, human means (Canons III/IV, 17)
3. We underestimate the importance of family worship time

The family worship is God's chosen and most efficient means of grace – more truly and efficacious than all the other ordinances of the church. (Dabney)

If family religion were duly attended to and properly discharged, I think the preaching of the Word would not be the common instrument of conversion. (Baxter)

The family circle is the supreme conductor of Christianity. (Henry Drummond)

II. THE MANNER OF FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Family Worship should be *consistent*
2. Family Worship should be *positive*
3. Family Worship should be *orderly*
4. Family Worship should tie in with *special occasions*
5. Family Worship should be a *dialogue with an open Bible*

III. THE COMPONENTS OF FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Prayer Time
2. Bible Reading time with follow-up discussion
3. Singing
4. Memory work
5. Catechizing
We believe it is due to the discontinuation of this practice of catechizing that we can trace much of the modern ignorance, confusing, and instability so characteristic of modern Christianity. (John Murray)
6. Read books of spiritual instruction

IV. SHARING TIME ABOUT THE PRACTICE OF FAMILY WORSHIP