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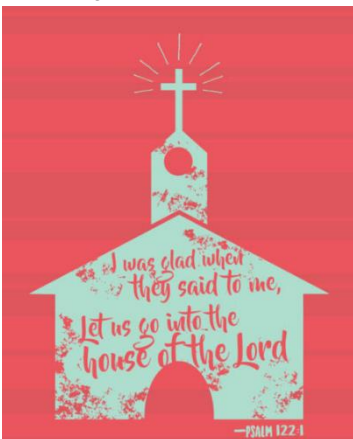
The Necessity of Godly Leadership in the Covenant Home



Many of our Christian homes are often affected by disunity, poor communication, recalcitrant children, weak marital relationships, spiritual declension and even worldliness. The leadership in the covenant home is of utmost importance. Paul, in his instructions to the Ephesians, placed the husband as the head of the home (Eph. 5:22-6:4). **Men who are fathers and husbands need to be responsible for what is going on in their Christian homes.**

Corporate Church Worship and Family Devotions

To begin with, regular Sunday church worship and family devotions are to be biblically based. God's covenant with His people in the Church comprises the elect of God, including heads of households. Throughout Scripture, the family is viewed as a basic unit in the worship of God, in the covenant home and in the congregation of the Church. God's plan of salvation is intimately related to the family, especially in the revelation of God's relationship to His covenant people through Christ.



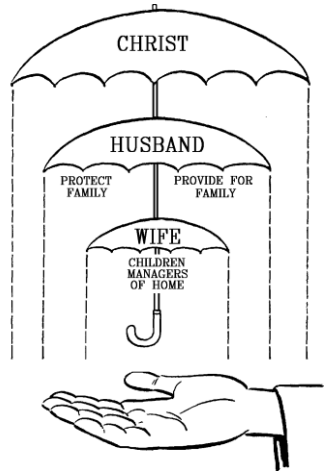
There is a grave duty for families to be committed to faithful corporate worship on Sunday as a family which is a concern for many churches. **Today's Christian families grow progressively weaker and less resistant to worldly pressures, undermining the spiritual health of the members.** In the post-modern era, the dominant secular culture is hostile to Christian marriage and family, even sometimes anti-biblical and thus undermines the moral fibre of the society and

church, which we need to be vigilant against.

Husbands and fathers as spiritual leaders should bring the whole family to Sabbath worship punctually and regularly and to pay attention to the word preached during worship and in other ministries (ie in the Sunday School). It is an important part of our family's lives as a gathered church for all Christians in the house of God (Heb 10:24, 25). Wives need to submit to the leadership of husbands where Christ is the centre of the family and the Sabbath worship service to God, a crucial and meaningful element of their family lives.

Responsible Headship of the Family

The headship of the Christian husband in a marriage is derived from Christ's headship over the Church (Eph 5:22-23), which is His bride. **Biblically, the head of the household authoritatively represents his wife and children in the community or church and to God and is held responsible by God for their conduct.** The Church is made up of households represented by family heads, over whom is Christ, the Head of the household of God. Family worship is a response to God's command to the Christian heads of households; to command and guide their families in the way of the Lord. (Gen18:19) How else this command be obeyed fully except by discipline and spiritual instruction in the context of family worship, in the family with Bible study with individual family members. Clearly this responsibility cannot be delegated to someone else. It is God's command to the head of the household and is as essential to his sanctification as to that of the whole family, including children and the maids.



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Children need to be taught, guided and influenced by godly parents who are ready and willing to honour, serve and worship God first with love and by example (Col 3:1-5). Children learn best by observing the example of their parents, and seeing their father prayerfully prepared, waking up early and attentive in Church and arriving on time every Sunday. This will teach them the importance of biblical worship, daily devotion and Christian principles in those early formative years.

Regular Domestic Bible Reading and Prayer

The reading of God's Word is an indispensable element of family worship. It should not be replaced with worldly books no matter how good since they remain the words of men and not God (2 Tim 2:15; 3:16,17).

Bible reading and prayer can be the simplest means of exercising spiritual leadership. In one-on-one Bible study with a young child, one method is one in

which the child reads the passage aloud or silently, asks questions about difficult words and hears the father read the passage aloud. The father can then ask a question, make a comment or give the child an assignment, such as memorising a verse or answering a question or a practical application of the Word.



Husbands should love their wives in response to God's commands on the family (Eph 5:25-28; Col 3:19) is more evident in our action than words.

Husbands need to demonstrate by action that they love God and their wives. Children need to see their father showing it to their mother which prove he loves his God and their mother, whether it is praying to God with or for her and helping her with some tasks (ie cleaning, washing are ways to prove to children that Mom's work is important) or if it involves him backing her up in disciplinary matters. It does not have to be some grand gesture but small opportunities in our daily lives to prove you fear and love God, their mother, the church and His Word (Jer 15:16).

Spiritual Vitality of our Children

The promises of God are to both us and our children (Act 2:38,39), but we must not take for granted that we can be assured our children is saved if we fail to share the gospel and raise our children according to God's Word. How is Christ our Lord and Saviour if God's New Testament instructions to fathers in Eph 6:4 and Act 16:31 are ignored?

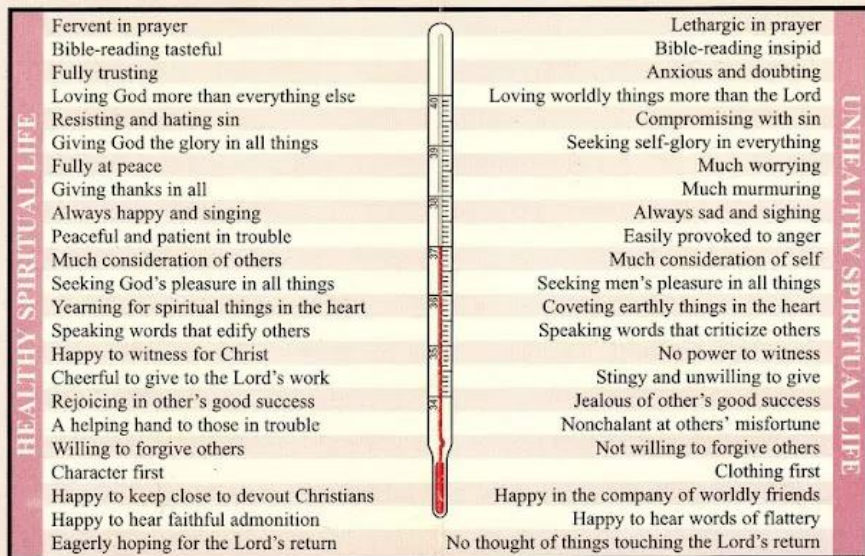
Some Christians are unaware of this important inspired principle "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*" (Prov 22:6). These points to the regular practice of family worship led by the father in the history of the Christian family. But today how many know of parents whose children rejected the gospel can sincerely affirm that these children were brought up biblically? How many will bring their children to Sunday School and worship? How many were instructed by their mother and not their father? Something to think about.

Fathers and mothers should exercise discipline over their children. Paul said, "Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph 6:4). Obviously, discipline is both teaching and correction and children must have both if they are to grow into what we would expect from mature servants of God. Teaching the shorter catechism (ie Westminster Confession of Faith) to them is effective, coupled with a firm disciplined hand of love (1 Tim 4:12).

Fathers and mothers need to set aside time to study God's Word with their families. Nothing will produce strong, godly families like a sober and meaningful devotion to God's Word and His moral laws. 2 Tim 1:5 and 3:15-17 speak of God's way of instructing and building godly people with the Word through our mothers and even grandmothers. When we study the Word with our families, we

accomplish two things. First, we instill the teachings of God's Word in our children as spiritual convictions. Second, we remind our families that the knowledge of God's Word is important and beneficial and necessary for abundant effectual living.

SPIRITUAL LIFE THERMOMETER by Wang Ming Tao



Husbands and fathers as spiritual leaders should pray often with and for their families. Families are the building blocks of our society and the church. Satan always seek to destroy the home, and he has succeeded by promoting differences leading to divorces, spousal violence and children's and teenagers' rebellion and other relationships problem. That is why the fervent prayer of the parents for the children is so vital. Like Monica and Suzanna of old for their children, Augustine, Charles & John Wesley respectively, James says, *"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."* (Jas 5:16).

Children need to know that Dad and Mom have a regular prayer time for them at the throne of grace where he can turn to God when he needs guidance when things seem difficult. They need to know that Dad is accountable to the Lord, and he is in charge. They need to know that Dad is concerned enough about them to ask for God's guidance, not only for them, but for him in his dealings with them, at work, in church, for their teachers and all others who have influence over them. Children need to know that God is a Very Important Person in their parents' lives as they consult Him frequently in prayer. They learn this with a deep impact when they see and hear Dad talking to God daily and read His Word and practise it as well.

Conclusion

The church rise or fall with the spiritual health of the families they consist of, and we need to equip, exhort and pray for the leaders of our Covenant families who are to be godly and disciplined fathers who love the Lord and know His Word, His church and family. A family's spiritual leader should lead by example and by Scriptural convictions and directions, to pray and share the gospel of Christ and the Word with his family members and his domestic helpers to if any peradventure they may be saved or revived, as the Lord wills.

Jack Sin

***A Special Seminar on Sat 14 Sep 2024, 5pm
Venue: Sovereign Hope BPC
Registration: Dn Paul Tan (hp:97314733) by 9 Sep***

The Importance of *GENESIS* to the Church Today


14 Sept Sat 5:00pm - 6:30pm

- Genesis is a foundational book that reveals the history of Creation-Fall-Redemption.
- Did God use evolution over billions of years in his Creation?
- How does evolution and old earth ages undermine this Genesis history and the gospel message?
- What is the biblical timeline?
- What is the philosophy behind evolution?
- Noah's global flood is evidenced by abundant geologic, geomorphic, landscape and fossil evidence.
- How can biblical creation sharpen your evangelism?

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Please whatsapp Dn Paul Tan at mobile 97314733 by 9 Sept.

CREATION.COM



DR RON NELLER

***Sovereign Hope
Family Day
9 Aug 2024
Singapore
Botanic
Gardens***



***A blessed time of
fellowship in
Christ, including
giving of Gideon
Bibles, sharing the
good news of
Christ at all times
and in all places!***



***With Grateful Thanks from
the family of Ps Lazarus.....***

Dear uncle Jack,
I want to personally thank you for the financial support from you and the church. Your kindness has been a true blessing in our life during this time. The love and care from the congregation have touched our heart deeply, and I am incredibly grateful that my dad was part of such a wonderful community. Please extend my gratitude to the entire congregation as well. We have received the amount as mentioned in the picture. Thank you again for everything. ✨
Sincerely,
Ashirvad
Son of Ps Lazarus

***A Word of Encouragement
from Adelaide.....***

Thank you very much, Pastor Jack for your exhortation and the SHBPC Weeklies for 2024 08 04 and 0811. Praise the Lord for your blessed message on the Acrostic of SINGAPORE. So helpful as we pray for God's richest blessings, guidance and protection upon this beloved nation SG. We appreciate your encouragement to study the Bible with 9 Adverbs. May God continue to bless your ministry richly. Thank you for your prayers for us as we serve the Lord in Adelaide. May the Lord our God be glorified by the faithfulness of His people and leaders. 🙏
With prayers. 🙏
Rev and Mrs Edward Paauwe
Adelaide

Memory Verse

Exod 15:2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***Song of Gratitude & Praise [Exod 15:1-27]***", the study on the "***Book of Exodus – Supernatural Guidance in the Wilderness of Life.***
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***When Teamwork & Prayers Matter [Exodus 17:1-16]***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service continue as follows:
 - Christian Apologetics (Pastor)
 - Studies in Ezra (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Old Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. Join us for a time of profitable learning. **[Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178]**.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. **[Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551]**.
7. Pray for:
 - Medical: Anthony [lung cancer: narrowing airways], Samuel Wong [multiple health conditions], Aunt Chwee Lian [hip fracture], Daniel Phang [high blood pressure], Kin Hoong [monitoring of heart and lungs pressure].
 - Travels: Marilyn (Philippines)
8. **The Church Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on **Sun 25 Aug 2024** after the worship service. All members are required to attend.
9. A special Creation Ministries seminar on "***The Importance of Genesis to the Church Today***" by **Dr Ron Neller** will be held on **Sat 14 Sep 2024, 5pm**. All are welcome. Register with Dn Paul Tan.
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.