

Family Worship & Marriage

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In family worship, at least two people need to be present – one person needs to instruct and the other needs to be instructed. This can happen in a marriage relationship where there are no kids and it can reach to the largest family unit. Family worship is something that every family can engage in and one of the most important aspects of life can be dramatically shaped by God's Word, namely, the marriage relationship.

Here are some ways that family worship spurs the marriage relationship on to greater Christ-honoring growth.

1. Family Worship Can Encourage Marital Growth as the Couple Spends Regular Time in the Word of God.

When both the husband and the wife read and study the Word of God together, they both experience the transforming power of Scripture. The glory of Scripture will engage their own individual hearts and unite their hearts closer together in the bond of love and in the covenant of marriage. When the couple spends time examining the Word of God regularly, they will hear the heart of God and grow closer to the heartbeat of God and will thus strive to apply and implement biblical truths into their own hearts and lives individually and in their marriage.

2. Family Worship Reminds Both the Husband and the Wife that the Home Must Not Fall into a Child-Centered Environment.

If a family does not deliberately fight against it, a family with children can easily slide into a child-centered environment. This simply means that the home life, family life, and even marriage relationship is dictated by the children, by the children's activities, the children's desires, and the children's wishes. How sad it is that by far the majority of homes in our land are child-centered. Look at all of the activities for the young people that keeps husbands and wives separated during the week or a child that whines when he does not get what he wants and so the family accommodates the child so as to "keep the peace." This in no way encourages the neglect of children or the refusal to accommodate some of the wishes of the children. But by and large, the marriage relationship must remain the most important, the foundational, and the primary relationship in the home. To neglect the marriage and keep the children means that a couple has thus forfeited the marriage covenant.

3. Family Worship Allows the Husband to Wash His Wife in the Word of God Regularly.

The Bible requires that all husbands wash their wives in the Word of God just as Christ washes His bride with the Truth (Eph 5.26). When a husband and wife daily engage in family worship, this provides a wonderful opportunity for the husband to: (1) read the Word with his wife, (2) teach his wife the Truth from Scripture, (3) answer any questions she may have concerning Scripture and theology, (4) model and demonstrate for her the life-transforming nature of the Word as it shapes his own life to the image of Christ.

4. Family Worship Teaches the Children That One of the Most Important Elements in a Godly Marriage is the Word-Centeredness that Permeates All Areas of Life.

When children are present, family worship allows the husband and the wife to model for all children present the necessary truth that the Word of God must consume the central role in the home life. It shows the children that the Bible does contain all the answers for marital struggles. It models that the Word of God sufficiently addresses all of life's problems. That the Bible must remain the rock-foundation for all areas of life is a lifelong lesson that every child can learn. And family worship creates a wonderful environment in which to teach this.

5. Family Worship Models for the Children What the Role of the Husband/Father is in Leadership and what the Wife/Mother's Role is in Submission.

In the marriage relationship, God calls the husband to lead and the wife to come alongside of him as his helpmate. In times of regular family worship, this male leadership models for the children what the role of a man of God must be. And also, it demonstrates how the woman's role is to serve, support, and submit to the man's leadership and headship. This will teach the children how they are to live and conduct themselves when they are older and married. And it also provides a teaching opportunity so they know what to look for in a future spouse.

6. Family Worship Draws the Husband and Wife Together in Frequent and Fervent Supplication to God for the Salvation of Each of the Children.

An important discipline that all married couples must engage in is praying for the mercy of God to regenerate each of their children. We are utterly powerless to save our children. There is no Bible knowledge or religious deeds that can contribute to a child's regeneration. All parents are entirely dependent on the supernatural and sovereign grace of God to invade the child's life so as to bring the light of Christ into the sinner's heart. Family worship draws the marriage relationship closer as they can pray frequently and fervently for God to save the children.

7. Family Worship Allows God to Regularly Talk Through His Word to the Marital Couple So that Confession, Repentance, Reconciliation and Conversations Can Be Had.

As a couple reads the Word together, sins will be exposed, confession will be necessary, reconciliation will be needed, and conversations about certain situations, relationships, and circumstances will need to be had. And as the Word brings everything into the light, it allows God to speak through His Word in addressing how to respond to and apply His truth.

8. Family Worship Comforts the Wife's Heart as the Man Leads the Marriage and the Home in Spiritual Matters.

The wife's heart finds great comfort when her husband leads in the home. When he strives to the best of his ability and with the strength of God to lead the marriage and lead the family in the Word of God, she is drawn to him and comforted by his sincere efforts.

9. Family Worship Drives the Couple to Talk Through All Matters of Theology & Its Relationship to Everyday Life & Worship.

A family can choose to read through books of the Bible together and when this is done, the husband and the wife can thus talk through many areas of theology and how theological truths have a direct influence upon one's thinking and conduct. A couple that continually talks about theology and implementation grows closer together & glorifies God in earnest efforts to be transformed by the renewing of their minds as Scripture changes them.