

Family Worship & Regeneration

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One of the foremost reasons for households to regularly engage in the discipline of family worship is that provides regular opportunities for the gospel to be read, taught, and applied to the family so that the Spirit can work through His Word to regenerate the unsaved.

In what follows, I will provide a handful of ways that family worship and regeneration fit together.

(I must first state that there is no merit whatsoever in family worship in a saving way before God. Family worship will not save a child. Family worship cannot save an unregenerate soul. Family worship can be performed regularly, consistently, and biblically by a godly household yet still have an unregenerate person in their midst. This article does not hint at the false notion that family worship can somehow sanctify or set apart children for the gospel. It cannot. Only the Spirit saves and only the Spirit sanctifies.)

1. Family Worship That Faithfully Looks into God's Word Allows Unbelieving Sinners to Hear the Word of Christ.

In so far as a family is faithful to read, study, teach, apply, sing, and pray the Word of God on a consistent basis, it allows sinners to hear the glorious Word about Christ. And it is this gospel message about Christ that is saving. This is how a person is saved. He must hear the Word of Christ and believe in Him. Family worship that engages with the biblical gospel confronts sinners with the truth about Christ regularly so that God can work through His Word to save the unbelieving soul.

2. Family Worship Provides Constant Opportunities for the Glory and Holiness of God to be Displayed.

In working through the Word of God, an essential element in the gospel cannot be neglected, namely, the unmatched glory and untarnished holiness of God. As a family reads the Word, sings rich songs, and prays together, the transcendent glory of God and the impeccable holiness of God is constantly brought to bear. An unregenerate child (or any unbeliever) present during family worship will see the glory and holiness of God put on display.

3. Family Worship That Works Through All of Scripture Shows the Pervasiveness of Sin and the Utter Heinousness of It in Addition to Its Eternal Consequences.

When the Word of God confronts the sinner with the holiness of God, he will then see his own sin. The pervasiveness of his sin will be clearly demonstrated as a family examines Genesis through Revelation in family worship. And as the Word is read from both testaments, examples, illustrations, historical accounts will all show the heinousness of sin, the consequences of sin, and the despicable nature of sin before God.

4. Family Worship Constantly Allows the Family to See Christ and His Resplendent Beauty in Endless Ways as He is the End-Goal & Savior in All of Scripture.

As a family engages in family worship, it will draw a family to the beauty of Christ time and time again as He manifests Himself in all of Scripture. The resplendent beauty of Christ that is revealed in both testaments speak to how he is the goal of Scripture and the Savior revealed in Scripture. As a family reads the Word, they will see Christ. As a family studies the Word, they will see the active and passive righteousness of Christ. As a family meditates on the Word, they will see the substitutionary atonement of Christ. As a family glories in the Word, they will see the forgiveness offered by Christ. As a family rejoices in the Word, they will see Christ's righteousness imputed to the sinner by faith alone. This is the gospel that will save a sinner's soul. And a family that engages in worship will provide the Spirit to work through His Word in manifesting the beauty of Christ to the sinner so that he will look to Christ and be saved.

5. Family Worship Beckons Every Person Present to Examine Their Hearts and Lives as to Whether Their Salvation is Genuine and to Assess the Fruit of Their Lives.

The more Christ is studied, the more every believer strives to imitate Him. The more a family engages in family worship, it presents an extraordinary opportunity for every person to regularly examine himself to see whether he is in the faith; that is, he must test himself. Fruit must be examined. A life of repentance must be assessed. A hatred of sin must be looked for. A striving after holiness and a love for Christ should be present. And the more that a family worships together, it beckons every person to examine his heart and his life as to whether he is truly saved.

6. Family Worship Allows for Families to Pray for the Salvation of Particular Individuals — Children, a Spouse, a Family Member, etc.

When a father and mother pray *with* the children and beseech God earnestly to save them from future hell it affects the children. When the young people hear their parents taking hold of God in zealous prayer so that God will regenerate them and not cast them away eternally, it leaves a memorable mark on the children's minds. And God is a prayer-answering God and He loves when His children urgently plead with Him to regenerate a person. Family worship can be a timely occasion for praying for one's salvation and seeing how God works through His Word and through the prayers of His saints to regenerate a sinner.

7. Family Worship Can Be Done with an Affirmation that Our Responsibility Is to Study and Teach Scripture to the Children Yet at the Same Time Recognizing that God Is the One Who Alone Can Truly Regenerate the Children.

There is an amazing realization that happens when family worship is rightly understand as well as a biblical perspective of regeneration. Family worship is the duty of parents to engage in worship so that God works in and through His Word in blessing the family. At the same time, there is a complete understanding that regeneration is the work of God the Spirit alone. Family worship cannot save nor can any deed merit someone's eternal salvation. God alone draws and God alone justifies. Family worship weds these two glorious truths together so that as a family faithfully ministers the Word and the gospel, the Spirit works in and through His inspired Word and the gospel to impart spiritual life to the sinner.