

Family Worship & the Glory of God

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God says in His Word that all things come to pass for His own Name's sake (Isa 46.9-11; 48.11). Indeed, "from Him and through Him and to Him are all things" (Rom 11.36). God's passion is for His Name to be known and for His glory to be worshipped among all the nations (Isa 66.19). And, God certifies that His Name will be great among the nations (Mal 1.11). Therefore, if God works out all things for His own Name's sake and if God is passionately consumed with the manifestation of His supreme worth and glory, all true Christians have the distinct and eternal privilege of being a part of the marvelous display of the glory of God. Simply, this means that God is at the center of the entire universe and everything exists and happens to bring about the glory of God.

If the above is true, then family worship can also serve to bring about the glory of God in the localized sphere of a family's home life. I want to show **how family worship can display the glory of God** and remind each person that the glory of God must remain the central focus in all that Christians do.

1. Family Worship Fosters the Centralization of the Glory of God in Everyone's Mind.

When family worship is faithfully conducted, the Word of God centralizes the glory of God on everyone's mind. As a family sings together theologically rich songs and hymns, as a family studies the Word of God, and as a family takes hold of God in prayer, the greater glory of God rises to prominence in everyone's mind. And the more that a family consistently engages in worship together, each person is reminded of the beauty of God's character and worth. Nothing is more essential in all the universe than an all-encompassing, life-consuming passion for the glory of God. And the more that family worship is regularly done, it helps to foster the centralization of God's glory in the minds of every person present.

2. Family Worship Reminds Believers that the Glory of God is the Goal of Life & the Joy of the Saint.

The end goal of all things in the universe is the glory of God. The goal of life is the glory of God. The joy of a Christian is the display of the glory of God. Family worship that includes faithful reading and studying of Scripture reminds the father, the mother, and every child present that the glory of God is the end of all things. And when the glory of God is lost or when the focus is fuzzy, a believer's joy is lessened. But when the sundial of the believer's life is rightly pointing to God and His eternal glory, then a believer's joy is made full. This shows the need for faithful and frequent family worship because each Christian needs this daily reminder so that the world's luring lusts are conquered by a greater treasure in and desire for God's glory.

3. Family Worship Provides Opportunities for God to Glorify His Name in the Salvation of Children as the Word is Taught & the Gospel is Proclaimed.

A family that regularly reads the Word will thus see the gospel of Christ as He is revealed in all of Scripture. And the more that the gospel is read and proclaimed during family worship times (even when the children are very young), the more the children find themselves confronted with the gospel of grace as it is taught and proclaimed. God is greatly glorified in the salvation of sinners. One of God's ordained methods of evangelism is the family

unit where parents faithfully impart biblical truth and the gospel of grace to the children so that the Spirit can work through His Word and regenerate a lost soul by grace.

4. Family Worship Reminds Each Family Member that God is Glorified Even During Hard Seasons of Life, Tragedies, Trials, and Persecutions.

Life is filled with suffering. As a result of the fall, all humans are directly affected by sin, its evil effects, and its pervasive influence. Whether a natural disaster strikes, a family tragedy occurs, a spiritual trial lingers, or persecution for the faith encroaches, family worship can serve to remind each person that God is actively involved, sovereignly reigning, and supremely beautiful even in the storm. Furthermore, God walks with His people through hardships. God never abandons His children. He never leaves them alone for the Spirit of God indwells each Christian. But when the seasons of sorrow and the pains of persecution arise, a family can cling to the comforts of Scripture as they engage in the Word together.

5. Family Worship Glorifies God Because Parents Are Themselves Obedient to God in Pouring Biblical Truth into the Children & Thus Instructing the Children in the Ways & Word of God.

The example that Joshua sets consists of serving the Lord with his entire family (Josh 24.15). Moses tells the fathers to teach their children at all times of the day and in all locations of life (Deut 6.4-9). The book of Proverbs models a father instructing his children in the ways of God's wisdom so that he can have skill for living (Prov 1-9). Specifically, God commands fathers to "bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph 6.4). In so far as parents faithfully endeavor to pour gospel truth into the hearts and minds of the children, God is glorified because the parents are themselves walking in obedience to God's Word. Family worship can provide a wonderful opportunity for parents to obey God in instructing the children and thus glorifying God in the home.

6. Family Worship Shows that the Glory of God Permeates All of Life — Bible Reading, Singing, Praying, and Living Life to Magnify the Eternal Worth of God.

All Christians are to live and work for God's glory (1 Cor 10.31; Col 3.17, 23). The glory of God permeates all of life. God is the goal of worship. The worship of God takes place when a father works during the day. The worship of God can take place when a mother is at home teaching and disciplining the children and as she cares for the house. The worship of God can happen when a young man takes a test for God's glory. Everything in all of life can — and should — serve to enhance our understanding of, our commitment to, and our joy in the glory of God. When a family strives to come together on a regular basis for family worship, the glory of God is seen. In the singing of theologically rich hymns the worth of God's character comes to prominence in the mind and heart. When a family reads and discusses the Word of God, the worth of God is put on display and the application of God's glory in how a Christian lives life is seen. A family that believes in the power of prayer and prays regularly, faithfully, fervently, and believingly models the conviction that God reigns supremely as the omnipotent King and that all of life must serve to work out God's sovereign plan and result in His greater glory. A family that faithfully has family worship is a family that has frequent opportunities to show the joy in the glory of God, the blessedness in submission to God, and the life-application that stems from the eternal worth of God. May all Christian families see the benefit of family worship and regularly engage in this Christian discipline for the discipling of our children, for the blessing of our families, and for the magnification of God's great glory.