

The Necessity of Family Worship — To the Glory of God the Father

By Geoffrey R. Kirkland

The role of the father in leading his family in worship is just as important as the pastor showing up to preach and teach his congregation on Sunday mornings. The primary congregation of the husband is his wife and children. This duty must not be neglected; nor should it be neglected. Much to the opposite, this spiritual discipline of family worship should be integral in the heart and soul of the daily family schedule.

Family worship should consist of three essential elements: instruction from the Word of God, daily prayer to the throne of God, and daily singing of the praise of God.

Daily Instruction from the Word of God

As the functioning pastor of the home, “pastor dad” is to lead his family in worship first and foremost by instructing them from the Word of God. The first truth in this ingredient is that it must be regular, consistent, and habitual. It must be a daily part of the routine in the family life. It must not be omitted for other events—sports, work, church, phone, texting, TV, etc. The instruction of God’s Word should flow from the mouth of the father *as* the family lives life (cf. Deut 6:4-9). As the family gets up in the morning, as it calms down in the evening, as it travels on the road, and as it sits together in the house, the father is to be teaching and educating his family from the Word of God.

Daily Prayer to the Throne of God

The parents must storm the throne of God daily on behalf of each other, their children (by name), and the various needs of each person in the home. This regular, daily practice of prayer will set the pattern for the rest of the children’s lives. They will see the *practical* importance of prayer. Indeed, they will understand that prayer befits any and every situation in life—no matter how big or how small. But when the family is together for that specially marked time of family worship, the father must lead the group in fervent prayer to God. He should be careful that this prayer time does not extend into a lengthy “hour of prayer” so that the children are not exasperated. But, the terseness of prayer and the persistence of prayer will be a walking testimony to the children in the home.

Daily Singing of the Praise of God

All believers are to engage in constant singing in heart and a Christian-like zeal to make a joyful sound of music to the Lord. Not only is this to take place on Sunday morning when the visible church is gathered corporately but this *must* also take place in the daily settings of family worship. Each father should lead his wife and children in regular singing to the praise of God. If the son refuses to sing then the father authoritatively commands his son to obey or discipline will follow. Indeed, the father *is* the authority (given by God; cf. Eph 5:23-24). Thus, the time of singing in family worship can show the children just how important it is to express *in song* the

doctrinally sound truths and the theologically rich concepts of the gospel of Jesus Christ in sovereignly saving sinners!

Would it be that fathers would take these truths to heart and apply them *first* to their own hearts. Then, the fathers must bring their families together daily for a time of family worship of instruction from God's Word, prayer to God, and singing to God. And finally, fathers should beseech God fervently in prayer throughout the course of each day in earnestness in asking God to sovereignly save the children from their sins and that He might strengthen those who are already regenerated to be "salt and light" and "bright shining lights" amidst a dark and sin infested world in which they live.

May we accomplish this to the glory of God the Father and for the gospel of Jesus who saved us from our sins and through the enabling and sufficient help of the Spirit who guides and guards His elect, amen.