

Some Purposes of Family Worship

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Family worship is crucial because the Triune God deserves to be worshiped in our homes, by our families, led by fathers, on a daily basis. Family worship gathers the breadth of Scripture's instructions for parents to teach and instruct their children so that the children learn about God, man, sin, Christ, salvation, judgment, and grace. Just as Joshua resolved that he and his family would serve the Lord, so every godly man should resolve to serve God in his family similarly.

1. Prioritization.

One benefit of family worship is that it speaks and shows for every member of the family — especially the children — where the priority in the home really is. Sports must take preeminence. Entertainment, TV, movies, electronics should not win the hearts of the children. The Word of God must be priority in every Christian home. Family worship helps to prioritize the worship of God, the reading of Scripture, and the instruction of truth in the life of the home.

2. Regeneration.

The cute little children that parents cradle from the youngest of ages have foolishness in their hearts and their sinful hearts rage against the Lord. Every godly parent must have the preeminent ambition in life to God supernaturally regenerate the children so their cold hearts, their dead natures, and their rebellion against God would be turned into a passionate zeal for His glory!

3. Instruction.

Satan has already instructed the youngest of children. Satan does not wait till the children are of age and can handle certain instructions. Because this is so, parents must instruct the children from the earliest of days. Parents must instruct in Bible knowledge, theology, the gospel, Christian living, repentance, the brevity of life, and the reality of future judgment.

4. Imitation.

Follow me as I follow Christ should be the parents' mantra to their children. Parents must be imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love just as Christ has loved them. To engage in regular, daily, intentional times of family worship instructs the children not just for the coming day and week, but for their children and for their children's children. Family worship has long-term — multi-generational — effects.

5. Consolation.

In a broken world where troubles and trials take God's people by storm, family worship can provide needed opportunities for healing and comfort from God's Word as the family gathers to seek God in prayer, hear from God in the Word, and wait on God with hopeful expectancy. The warm embrace of the Father can console a hurting family as they worship God together.

6. Reconciliation.

Everyone sins. Fathers, mothers, and the children. And they sin against one another. Family worship can provide opportunities to instruct on forgiveness, reconciliation, grace, loving your neighbor, and responding to opposition. Sin should not prevent families from worshiping together. Rather, it should drive families together all the more to seek God and reconcile together.

7. Exaltation.

God commands all people to exalt the Lord God and worship at His footstool (Ps 99:5). To gather as an entire family to worship God, magnify Him, exalt Him (regardless of how one feels or the distractions that may come) is the best activity in which parents can do with their children. Exalt God together as a family! God deserves to be praised!