

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 4

Keeping the Family Together

I. The Great American Struggle

- A. We might say that family life in the 21st century is not easy. Our New Testament counterparts might scoff at such a statement.
 - 1. Compare our taking a bath, cooking our food, obtaining our food, etc.
 - 2. Our lives are easy in comparison. We have more leisure time, and we don't have to spend all of our time providing the bare necessities of life.
- B. We have a different set of hardships.
 - 1. Our lives are so busy. Consider all of the activities we are involved in.
 - 2. The book has 3 pages of activities a family might be involved in.
 - 3. Mom and Dad might wonder how they can fit anything else into their schedule. They are ready to murder the author of a book who claims they have more leisure time than anyone in history.
- C. Is it any wonder even Christian families are falling apart?
 - 1. Even when we are at home, each child is doing their own thing. They have their own telephone, television, and computer.
 - 2. We can be in the same house but not together.

II. Meaningful Together Time

- A. There is nothing wrong with these activities in themselves.
 - 1. The answer is not necessarily to end all extra-curricular activities (though some may take that approach).
 - 2. We must be on guard to preserve our family togetherness.
 - 3. Carve out and schedule meaningful family-together time.
- B. Deut. 6:7
 - 1. Talk together... play games... do chores together – yard work, house cleaning, etc.
 - 2. Turn off the electronics. Even the television is an individual thing. If you do watch a show together, discuss it afterward.
 - 3. When you have Bible study, don't send your kids off to play. Don't tacitly teach them that spiritual things are too big for them.
 - 4. Get the kids involved in visiting the sick, helping others, etc.
- C. Exodus 12:25-27 – Memorials – Passover, etc.
 - 1. Family traditions
 - 2. Birthdays, holidays, etc.
 - 3. One family makes worm cakes... a bundt cake cut in half and pieced together to look like a worm. Decorations may vary. The boy wanted one as

his groom's cake when he grew up.

D. Christmas

1. Let me just take a minute and talk about Christmas.
2. We do not celebrate Jesus' birthday.
3. We do use the time that the world is thinking about Jesus' birth to talk about the blessings of Jesus' birth.
4. In my mind, Christmas has two parts... the secular and the religious.

III. The Church and Family Togetherness

A. Church activities

1. Should churches have activities that separate people by their age category?
2. Churches should do activities that bring families together. ...bring age groups together.
3. Satan is trying to isolate individuals.

B. Family-based Bible classes?

C. Family-based activities?

D. I think the idea of a church only providing "fun" activities without some spiritual emphasis is misguided. Of course, the opposite idea of only having activities that are stuffy and boring is also not the best.

IV. Today's Response

A. Seek to have meaningful together time with your family.

B. Point to Ponder

1. What kind of teaching opportunities could the congregation offer to help keep the family together?
2. Is a family-based Bible class at the church building feasible?
3. Lads to Leaders fills this hole somewhat.
4. Family devotionals/discussions also meet this need.