

# Built By the Lord

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## Chapter 16

### Family Worship

- I. The Family and Congregational Worship, Deuteronomy 6:5-9
  - A. Habits → Aristotle said, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”
    - 1. If we want our family to excel in service to God, we have to pay attention to our habits.
    - 2. Ephesians 4:20-24 → we put off old habits and put on new ones.
  - B. Under the old law, God was explicit regarding the main center of worship. It was the tabernacle and later the temple in Jerusalem.
  - C. Deuteronomy 12:5-7
    - 1. This is before Jerusalem was established as the place for sacrifice.
    - 2. Some sacrifices were burned totally.
    - 3. Some sacrifices only specific parts were burned, some was given to the priests and the Levites, and some was given back to the family to enjoy a happy meal together.
    - 4. Some sacrifices were a “wave offering” in which the sacrifice was raised and brought back. This is an understanding that everything belongs to the Lord.
  - D. Deuteronomy 15:19-20 → “You and your household shall eat it every year.”
    - 1. 1 Samuel 1:21 – Samuel’s father, Elkanah, fulfilled this command.
    - 2. Worship, even in some of the congregational aspects, was a family issue.
  - E. Ideally, even in the New Covenant, we are able to worship as a family. Ideally, your entire family is committed to worship with a local congregation.
    - 1. Congregational worship is not simply an occasion for Christians to get together with people of their age to socialize before and after the assembly... although there is a lot of that that happens! 😊 That’s a good thing.
    - 2. Our local congregation is viewed as families coming together as a larger unit to glorify God together and edify one another.
    - 3. The author is concerned that some of our congregations are so focused on segregation of age groups that the idea of families worshipping together is pushed aside in favor of different groups sitting together.
    - 4. If you are not yet married, you should want to marry someone with whom you can worship, 1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23.
    - 5. If you have children at home, it should be understood, this is a required part of being in this family.
- II. The Family and Worship at Home
  - A. For Job, worship was a family affair, Job 1:5.
    - 1. Job probably lived during the Patriarchal Age.
    - 2. During the Patriarchal Age, the father of the family would serve as the priest

for the family.

3. He offered sacrifices for his children just in case they accidentally sinned.
- B. For David, family worship was a known fact. It was an event that was planned. Attendance was required, 1 Samuel 20:6, 28-29
- C. Too many people consider worship to be what we do “at church.” -- “While each and every one of us should be part of a congregation and our family should be involved as a unit in the local church, the primary place of worship should be the home. The primary unit of worshipers should be the family.” ~Crozier
- D. Acts 10:1-2 → Cornelius “feared God with all his household.”
  1. While he was influenced by the Jews, he never became one.
  2. Before the covenant with Jesus Christ was established, Cornelius would have made a good patriarch. Remember that the covenant with Moses was for the Jews. The Patriarchal covenant for the gentiles continued until the cross, John 12:32.
  3. Because Cornelius included his family in his worship, is it any wonder that he had his family and friends assembled and ready to hear Peter when he arrived in Acts 10:24?
  4. Exodus 12:24-27
  5. How do our children learn about God and how to worship? They watch us as parents. They ask questions.
  6. “If you want to teach your children to pray, let them catch you at it.”

### III. Some Practical Advice

- A. Remember the story about the big rocks in Chapter 5 of Family First?
  1. Family worship is one of those big rocks.
  2. The devil will try to stop this from happening.
- B. Make worship a habit. Be prepared for Satan to get in the way.
- C. Family worship – What about worship as a family?
  1. Practical advice
  2. Family Bible study → More in Chapter 17 – “Family Study”
    - a. Use a devotional book as a springboard for a discussion of God’s word.
    - b. This is NOT a substitute for reading God’s actual word.
    - c. 1 Timothy 4:13
  3. Pray together → More in Chapter 18 – “Family Prayer”
  4. Sing, James 5:13; Ephesians 5:19 - Does it say Sundays only? 😊  
When you have small children, sing the children’s songs with them.
  5. Deuteronomy 6:7 – We teach when we are walking, driving, working, etc.  
Get the Bible app and listen to it. Listen to acappella songs.
  6. “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”

### IV. Today’s Response

- A. When will you and your family worship together this week?
- B. Why do we worship God at all? How you answer this question will impact what you and your family should be doing regarding worship.
- C. If your faith won’t bring you to church, how will it take you to heaven?