

A Family Built on God

Psalm 127

PW Emerson – 11/11/2018 – Ten:27 Ministries

We're doing a series on being Thankful.

- Last week we look at how we showed Thanks to God – in part with our praise & worship

Today, looking at being thankful for families!

Psalm 127

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

² In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves.

³ Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.

⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.

⁵ Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

One of my favorite TV series is *Home Improvement*

When I first read verse 1 – building a house and laboring in vain – I couldn't help but think of Tim the Toolman Taylor. If something isn't the best he'll rewire it!

Psalm 127:1 reminds me of Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Jesus makes it clear this is a metaphor – building on the Word of God is **LIKE** a wise man with a solid foundation – he could withstand great torrents – both the house and the man.

This is especially true for the family. Imagine if you will, a **FAMILY** build on God.....

Indeed family was created in the beginning let's take a look.

Genesis 1:27-28

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

God created man, God created woman and told them to increase in number.

Thus the first family was created.

From Zig Ziglar's book Hommade, 1989,

A New York executive search firm, in a study of 1365 corporate vice presidents, discovered that 87% were still married to their one and only spouse and that 92% were raised in two-parent families. The evidence is overwhelming that the family is the strength and foundation of society.

Strengthen your family ties and you'll enhance your opportunity to succeed.

Throughout the Bible there are MANY references to family, the blessings that come from being with family, and taking care of one another.

1) EACH MEMBER BRINGS BLESSINGS TO THE FAMILY

Genesis 7:1

¹ The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.

Whenever we think of Noah, we think of ark, animals and flood.

But God didn't just save Noah – Noah's entire family was saved on the ark!

Even though Noah was the righteous one, his entire family was blessed by Noah's righteousness

Each person has been given spiritual gifts, talents, etc. We need to ask ourselves, are we using them to help our family?

Let me give you an example from today – Laurie

- Used to be a caterer
- Enjoys cooking
- Seems to have a spiritual gift of hospitality.

She uses this with her ENTIRE family. Not only is the family blessed by it, but so too are friends of the family and their family. She uses her gift and talent to help the family.

One thing to keep in mind is that when we serve our family, we should think of it as a blessing, not as a burden. Laurie's cooking is a labor of love! She doesn't think of herself as grunt labor, like a hired cook.

I am by no means an expert chef.

But I LOVE to cook when I'm cooking for my boys – it's one of the ways I show I love them.

The dish I make that my boys love the most is ribs – I make excellent ribs.

However, they are a LOT of work.

But when I'm doing it for my boys, I am happy to do it!

Illustration - New company started in 1980

It started with Rent-A-Wife, a small Petaluma, California, company created by Karen Donovan to help clients decorate their homes, balance checkbooks, run errands, etc. Donovan, who launched her business through a small ad in the local newspaper, is already thinking big after four months of operation. She wants to hire her father to initiate Rent-A-Husband and her two teens to start Rent-A-Family. "We can do what any family does," the newfangled entrepreneur joked. "We can come over and eat all the food, turn on all the lights, put handprints on the walls, take showers and leave the towels on the floor. When clients are finished with Rent-A-Family, they'll have to call Rent-A-Wife.

Stop for a moment and ask yourself:

- What gifts or talents do I have?
- Am I using them to bless my family?

Remember, EACH MEMBER BRINGS BLESSINGS TO THE FAMILY

II) NURTURE AND SUPPORT IS A BASIC FUNCTION OF THE FAMILY

I Timothy 5:8

Now if anyone does not provide for his own relatives, and especially for his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

When you are sick, have the flu, feel horrible Who do you want to take care of you? MOM! DAD!

In fact, my life verse is James 1:27, calling us to take care of those who don't have a family to take care of them!

²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after **orphans and widows** in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

It's important to highlight this because the orphan and widow don't have family. And WE are supposed to bring them into our family so that they do have family. That's how important family is!

One of the blessings about being part of a family is knowing you are NOT alone. My passion is for the orphan, making sure they know they are NOT alone!

Genesis 4:9

° Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

As part of a family, you are your brother's keeper. I am my brother's keeper. The idea is that we are supposed to look after family! We are supposed to CARE!

Think about it for a moment

- If someone in your family has a GREAT accomplishment, don't you also feel happy?
- If someone in your family has a major problem dragging them down, don't you also feel down?

It's because nurture and support are a basic function of the family!

When one of my boys does something wonderful, I am elated! Thrilled!

When one of my boys does something bad, I am sad and disappointed.

That sense of nurturing is why parents teach/train their kids.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

CONCLUSION

One of the things I believe and teach as a minister is that people in my congregation may disagree with me about something. But they should know where my heart is – with the mission and vision of the church.

Families may have disagreements – families WILL have disagreements.
But know where each other's heart is; know that it is with the family.

I Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a
multitude of sins.

It's easy to see me on a Sunday morning and think

Wow! Pastor Phil is so wonderful! Funny ... Caring ...

Supportive!

But what's he really like At home ... at work ...?

What's he like outside of church?

Want to know what I'm really like? Ask ANYONE who has lived with
me. I give them permission to share!

Psalm 127

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in
vain.

² In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he
grants sleep to those he loves.

³ Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.

⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.

⁵ Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

The greatest blessing in my life are my boys.

Rudyard Kipling once wrote about families, "all of us are we--and everyone else is they." A family shares things like dreams, hopes, possessions, memories, smiles, frowns, and gladness...A family is a clan held together with the glue of love and the cement of mutual respect. A family is shelter from the storm, a friendly port when the waves of life become too wild. No person is ever alone who is a member of a family.

Fingertip Facts

Families are a great blessing from God!