

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 1, 2025

“How Important Is The Family?”

By David Dann



The Bible says, *“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it”* (Psalm 127:1a).

Rather than being primarily concerned with the building of physical houses made of wood and brick, the teaching of God's word focuses on the building of households, or families.

A “family” is properly defined as consisting of a unit of people who are related to one another. The basic family unit is made up of a husband and wife (Matt. 19:4-6), as well as their children, should they be so blessed (Psalm 127:3).

While the world so often belittles, scorns, and seeks to discard the concept of the family, the Bible places a great deal of emphasis on its importance and significance. Why is the family so important?

1. The family is the first God-ordained institution.

Long before the church was brought into existence and even before the implementation of civil government, God created the family arrangement. On the sixth day of the creation God said, *“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him”* (Genesis 2:18). Accordingly, God created woman and it was decreed that *“a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh”* (v. 24). God made the family a priority even from the beginning.

2. The family is the first and only honorable arrangement provided by God for the procreation of mankind.

With regard to the family unit consisting of a man and a woman, God said at the beginning that the married couple should *“be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it”* (Genesis 1:28).

While children may be conceived outside of the marriage relationship, God did not intend it to be so. Concerning sexual fulfillment, the message of Scripture is clear: *“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge”* (Hebrews 13:4).

God arranged the family to serve as a loving environment in which children are to be produced and raised.

3. The family is the first place for providing for the physical needs of its members.

God designed the family to sustain itself from a physical and material standpoint. With regard to this function of the family, the apostle Paul writes, *“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”* (1 Timothy 5:8).

Rather than placing this responsibility upon the government or the church, the family has been created by God to take care of and sustain itself (cf. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).

4. The family is the first and best arrangement for the training and education of children.

The word of God makes plainly evident the fact that God designed the family as a training arrangement. The biblical charge to parents is as follows: *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6) and, *"Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die"* (23:13). God expects the family arrangement to be one in which godly guidance is provided.

5. The family is the first place where true religion is taught and practiced.

Concerning the words of the Law of Moses, Israelite families were instructed as follows: *"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up"* (Deuteronomy 6:7).

While the local church is responsible for teaching and upholding the truth (1 Timothy 3:15), the Lord has directly charged parents with the responsibility of bringing up their own children *"in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4).

The undeniable expectation is that God and His word will be held in reverence in the family, as one generation passes His wisdom on to the next.

Conclusion:

In numerous and profound ways God has made the family first. The challenge before us is to make sure that God is first in our families. As we seek to fulfill God's expectations for our families, let us be ever aware that, *"The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the just"* (Proverbs 3:33).

"Able To Admonish"

By Joe R. Price

"Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another" (Romans 15:14).

To admonish means "to warn, exhort." Every Christian has the right and responsibility to admonish a fellow Christian in righteousness. We are not islands unto ourselves.

Christians share in the spiritual blessings of Christ (Colossians 1:12). While sharing in heavenly blessings, we show genuine care for one another when we properly admonish each other. Admonitions regarding spiritual things express genuine love and care (1 Peter 4:8).

The word "able" in Romans 15:14 ("able also to admonish") means "possible," or the power to do a thing. This passage teaches goodness and knowledge are essential to be able or have the power to admonish others.

We need goodness and knowledge in abundance. Goodness identifies purity of heart and honest motives, while knowledge respects the standard for admonition. Effective admonitions (warnings) reflect the goodness of Christ (Galatians 6:1-2). Also, understanding (knowledge of) His truth enables us to offer proper and correct warnings of spiritual danger (cf. Hebrews 5:14; John 7:24).

Scripture teaches us to admonish:

- (1) One another in song (Colossians 3:16).
- (2) The disorderly (1 Thessalonians 5:14).
- (3) Brethren from whom we have withdrawn ourselves (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15).
- (4) The factious person (Titus 3:10).
- (5) Every person to be perfect in Christ (Colossians 1:28)
- (6) One another as beloved brethren (1 Corinthians 4:14).
- (7) At all times (Acts 20:31).

Let us be dedicated to admonishing each other with Christ's goodness and knowledge.

“Characteristics Of A Successful Soul Winner”

Lesson Text: **Proverbs 11:30**, *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
And he who wins souls is wise.*”

I. A Clear Knowledge Of Jesus Our Savior.

- We need To Know Christ Ourselves, And All About His Ways! **2 Peter 3:18.**
 - God’s Plan For Saving Man Was At The Cross- **John 3:16.** God’s Love Demonstrated!
 - Jesus Shed His Blood For Our Redemption- **Ephesians 1:7.**
- Be Firmly Rooted In How To “Come To Jesus.”
 - Faith- The Starting Point & Foundation Of All We Do!
Romans 10:17 (vs. 14); John 6:45.
 - Repentance- **Luke 13:3 & 5; Luke 24:46-47.**
 - Confession Of Christ- **Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10.**
 - Baptism Into Christ- **Acts 2:37-38; 9:6—17-18; 22:16; Galatians 3:27.**
- Knowledge Of The Hope In Christ- **1 Peter 3:15.**

II. A Firm Conviction That Every Lost Soul Is Lost Without Jesus.

- The Scriptures Point To This Conclusion- **Romans 3:23; 6:23.**
 - **1 Peter 4:17—2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.**
- **Matthew 9:35-38.** It Is Our Duty To Be A Soul Winner Like Jesus!
- Jesus Saw Many Who Came To Him From A Lost Condition:
 - Simon Peter- **Luke 5:8.**
 - The Samaritan Woman At The Well- **John 4.**
 - **Zacchaeus- Luke 19:4-10.**
- That’s Why We Can’t Be Silent About Our Faith- **Romans 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10.**

III. Love For The Lost.

- Love Seeks The Best For Those We Love. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8.**

“Agape, the Christian word, means unconquerable benevolence. It means that, no matter what people may do to us by way of insult or injury or humiliation, we will never seek anything else but their highest good.” (William Barclay, The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians).

- If We Love Others, We Will Do All We Can To Persuade Them- **2 Corinthians 5:10-11.**
- If We Love Others, We Will Devote Ourselves To Being A Soul Winner. **Romans 13:8.**
- If We Love Others, We Will Teach Them The Gospel- **Romans 1:14-17.**

IV. Perseverance In Saving Souls.

- **Ephesians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.**
- **Acts 5:40-42.**

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Stacy & Annette Meeks, Mike Timbes (Paul Johnson's neighbor who was diagnosed with lung cancer), Anita Harris' mother, Hillard Switcher, Dianne Johnson (Fred's wife), Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Martha Cottrell (Dan's Mom), Danny Briggs (cancer), Fred Johnson, Marsha Briggs' mother, and Tim Harris Sr. had a tooth pulled last week.

Updates:

Sherry Fuqua Doles is back home after her rehabilitation in Ikua.
Miss Robbie Doles had a fall last week and was not seriously hurt.
Martha Cottrell has left the Hospital to enter Therapy at Glenwood Rehabilitation in Florence, Al.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Nathan Meade
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"Characteristics Of A Soul Winner"</i>

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:	Jerry Kennemur
Author:	1st & 2nd Peter & Jude
Starting Page & Question:	Paul Blake
	<i>Page #50, Question #1</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Danny Sheffield
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Blake Briggs
Scripture Reading:	<i>1 Thessalonians 5:11</i>
Song Leader:	Tim Harris Sr.
Lord's Supper:	Jerry Kennemur
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"Becoming An Encouraging Person"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Conner Whittemore

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

June 4, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Busby
Workbook:	Great Bible Characters: Paul
Author:	By Bobby L. Graham
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #80, Question #4</i>
Invitation:	Brian Meade
Song Leader:	Nathan Meade
Closing Prayer:	Danny Sheffield



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“Becoming An Encouragement To Others”

Lesson Text: **1 Thessalonians 5:11.** A Major Need In The Church!

I. It Is Something We Must Choose To Do!

- Just Like All Choices About Our Character, Actions, And Deeds— We Choose It!
- It's Not About: “It's Just Not My Gift.” Or, “It's Just Not Natural For Me.”
- Moses Told Israel To Encourage Joshua- **Deuteronomy 1:37-38.**
- God Told Moses To Encourage Joshua- **Deuteronomy 3:27-28; He Did- 31:7-8.**
- David Encouraged Solomon- **1 Chronicles 22:6-19.**

II. We Encourage Others By:

- Helping Others In Need- **Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 9:36-38.**
 - Christians Helping Others- **Galatians 6:2; 6:6; 6:10.**
- Words Of Encouragement- **Proverbs 25:11; 18:21.**
 - Don't Use Discouraging Or Hurtful Words- **Colossians 4:6; Philippians 2:14.**
 - Talk Of Our Faith In Christ- **Acts 20:1-2; Romans 1:11-12.**
 - Talk Of Commitment To Faithfulness- **Acts 11:21-24.**
 - Talk Of Heaven- **John 14:1-3.**
 - From The Scriptures- **Philippians 4:13.**
- Giving Praise And Compliments- **Philippians 2:19-23.**
 - Encouragement Is Not Flattery- **Proverbs 29:5;**
- Displaying The Right Attitude & Example- **1 Corinthians 13:7.**
 - Not Giving Up On People Too Easily- **Acts 15:37-40 (13:13 John Left).**

III. The Results Of Our Encouragement.

- Others Won't Feel All Alone. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.**
- We Help Others Overcome Discouragements. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18.**
- More Is Accomplished For Our Lord. **Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV).**
- Ultimately, We Help Others Reach Heaven! **John 14:5-6.**