

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

March 10, 2024

“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"* (Gen. 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).



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"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.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Robert Howard, Billy Grisham, Fred Johnson, and keep Tim Harris Sr. in your prayers for his upcoming eye surgery. Debbie Johnson, Melissa Combs (Brian's sister). has surgery this coming Wednesday, and Price Whittemore was sick last week.

Our Gospel Meeting With Stacy Crim is scheduled for April 21st—24th.
 (Sunday to Wednesday)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Danny Sheffield
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *“Does God Speak To Us Today Outside His Word?”*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
Author: Herschel Patton
Starting Page & Question: — —

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading: *Isaiah 59:1-2*
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Fred Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *“The Single Nature Of Our Sin”*
Closing Prayer: Dan Cottrell

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

March 13, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Book Of Daniel
Author: By Daniel H. King
Starting Page & Question: *Page #37, Question #3*
Invitation: Jerry Kennemur
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Paul Johnson

“Does God Speak To Us Today Outside His Word?”

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 1:1-4.**

I. If So, The Claim Of Scriptures Is Misleading.

- David’s Attitude: **Psalm 119:1-8; 9-16; 119:105.**
- Paul’s Attitude: **2 Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 20:32.**
- No Promise For Us Today For Word Outside The Scriptures To Guide Us.
 - Proof Text: **John 16:13; Context: 16:6-15.**
 - Many Today Want The Holy Spirit To Directly Teach Them Without The Word.
 - The Holy Spirit’s Inspiration Was Limited:
 - Limited To The Apostles And Those Whom The Apostles Laid Hands On.
 - **Luke 24:49 (Acts 1:4-8); Acts 8:14-18.**
 - Limited By Time: **1 Corinthians 13:8-12.**

II. If So, Any Contradictions By Us Disproves It.

- **Isaiah 8:20; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Peter 4:11; 1 Timothy 1:3.**
- When Men Teach Salvation By Faith Alone— Without Repentance, Confession, Or Baptism... They Contradict Scripture.
 - **Luke 24:46-47; Acts 11:18; 17:30; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; 40-41; 47.**
- When Men Claim Special Revelation From God And Have More Than What God’s Word Teaches: Moderators, Archbishops, Popes, Church Presidents, Circuit Overseers... **Acts 14:23; 20:17; Phil. 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4.**

III. If So, His Word Is Not The Final Authority.

- **John 12:48; Ephesians 3:2-5.**
- Jesus Used The Scriptures As The Final Authority: **Matthew 12:3-5; 19:4.**
- The Word Is The Basis Of Judgment- **Revelation 20:11-13.**

IV. If So, It Makes Bible Study Unnecessary.

- Why Study, If God Can And Does Direct Us Without The Word? **2 Timothy 2:15.**
- **1 Timothy 4:13-16.** God’s Word Is Absolutely Necessary!

V. If So, God Shows Partiality To Some, But Not All.

- **Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:8-11.**
- **Luke 16:23-31.**

Conclusion:

God Has Spoken From His Word—We Need To Listen!

Revelation 2:7, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.....”

“The Single Nature Of Our Sin”

Lesson Text: **Isiah 59:1-2.** It Is The Only Thing That....

I. Separates Us From God.

- Some Say Nothing Can Separate Us From God— *“Once In Grace, Always In Grace.”*
- Proof Text: **Romans 8:35-39.** But Willful Sin Does...
- **Isaiah 59:2; Hebrews 10:26-29.**

II. Brings Spiritual Death.

- **Genesis 2:16-17,** Exactly What Happened In **Genesis 3:1-7.**
- **Ezekiel 18:20; James 1:13-15; Ephesians 2:1.**

III. Cost The Life Of Jesus.

- **Romans 5:6-8; Romans 8:3.**
- **1 Peter 1:18-20; Hebrews 10:19-22.**

IV. Keeps God From Answering Our Prayers.

- **Isaiah 59:2; Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 28:9.**
- **Isaiah 1:11-20; 1 Peter 3:12.**

VI. Brings God’s Wrath Upon Us.

- **Exodus 32:9-10; Deuteronomy 29:23; Joshua 22:20.**
- **Colossians 3:5-6;**
- **Jesus Delivers Us- 1 Thessalonians 1:10.**

VII. Will Cause Us To Miss Heaven.

- **John 8:21-24.**
- **Galatians 5:19-21.**