

The Christ-Honoring Family, Part 9: Fathers and Mothers as a Team: Steve Swartz  
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Selected Scriptures

- Our children respond to the atmosphere, makeup, order, and tone of the house. Parents are responsible to keep and maintain peace in the home and that priority takes planning, effort, and focus.
- **Spiritual Roles Family of Mothers & Fathers:**
  - Motherly Ministry:** From 2 Thess. 2:7-8, Mother's:
    1. **Bring Gentleness:** V7, "be gentle," Paul is saying that like the tender, sweetness of a baby, be gentle. Like a nursing mother, with care and love.
    2. **Bring Affection:** V8, "fond affection," is to yearn for someone in love. To give affection so they know they are loved.
    3. **Bring the Gospel:** V8, pointing children to Christ, a woman immersed in growing in godliness.
    4. **Bring Devotion:** V8, "but also our own lives, because you had become beloved to us." This is a woman who sees her role in life as devotion to her husband, children, and home; not herself.
  - Fatherly Ministry:**
    1. **Bring Exhortation:** V11, "we were exhorting," is with urgency, imploring them, giving commands. Giving instructions, teaching them how to be a Christian in the world.
    2. **Bring Consolation:** V11, to encourage, to cheer someone up, console. Emphasis is given to each one. **Example:** God with Israel. God would rebuke and chasten, but always provide a promise of rest and return to them each time. Prov. 20:30, "Stripes that wound scour away evil," discipline is an act of love and meant to bring pain.
    3. **Bring Insistence:** V11, "bearing witness," to charge, command, and insist.
    4. **Bring Scripture:** V12, "To walk in a manner worthy of God," is to know God's commands, to respect His authority given in Scripture. Fathers are to insist that their children hear the call of God to become more like Christ, for the glory of God.
- **Spiritual Heartbeat of the Family:**
  1. **Demonstrated in Deuteronomy 6:** Deut. 6:6-7, this is command to those who believe in Yahweh to be loyal to Him, and Him alone (V4). In all of our ways we honor Him and His commands are on our hearts and in our mouths continually. We demonstrate consistency in keeping and obeying.
  2. **Demonstrated by Two Faithful Women:** Regarding Timothy, Acts 16:1. 2 Tim. 1:5, Timothy's grandmother, Lois, and mother Eunice, taught Timothy the Scriptures and kept Deut. 6, even though married to a Gentile. 2 Tim. 3:15, Eunice and Lois taught Timothy the Scriptures from his childhood, which made him wise unto salvation.
  3. **Demonstrated by Life in the Church:** Col. 3:20, children are to obey their parents. They see the life of their parents filled with gathering with the body of Christ, service towards others, and a home filled with honoring Christ. They have a life honoring Christ at home, and they are weekly with the church in the word of God, fellowship, prayers, and singing as well (Col. 3:16).
  4. **Demonstrated by Service to the Church:** Phil 1:2, Paul's letter to Philemon who hosted the church in his home. Also, of Tabitha in Joppa, in Acts 9:36, who was full of good works and charity which she did continually. This is a call to serve the church with the strength and abilities that you have been given and could sacrifice unto the Lord.
  5. **Demonstrated by Family Worship:** The process: Read, sing, pray. Some variables in family worship: a) **Consistency:** regular and meaningful. b) **Variation:** sometimes bible reading and prayer. Sometimes singing and prayer. c) **Projects:** singing new hymns, going through a bible book. d) **Supplements:** other books that add insight to theology or aspects of service to God and the church. e) **With Small Children:** train them to sit and listen to God's word. Teach them Scripture to recite. Sing songs that recite Scripture over and over. Extend times longer and longer as they grow older.
- **To Worship God in Spirit and truth takes discipline and effort.**
- **God and your Savior are worthy of your effort!**

### **Further Discussion and Application**

The greatest joy in the life of parents and grandparents are to see their children come to faith in Christ. It says of Timothy that from his childhood (2 Tim. 3:15) he was taught the sacred writings that made him wise unto salvation. How can parents make the Gospel message understandable to their children so that they recognize the wisdom in repenting and turning from sin? How does a parent model repentance to their children? How do they focus their efforts and devotion towards God and the church of Christ so that their children know what the most important things are in life? What are the most important things in life?

If you were making a list of the attributes of a godly man and woman from this sermon, what attributes would you key upon? What ones stood out to you that you know now you can better obey? For training unto godliness, what aspects of the Christian life are about the journey? What aspects are about the destination? How can you share in the blessings of sanctification and glorification? Which ones come easy to you and which ones are more difficult? Is service and singing easy? Is studying and learning easier to you?

There are things in life that we focus on because we know that a successful and well-ordered life require certain things to make it work. Making a living that provides for the family is an imperative for godly men. Women are to love their husbands and care for their children and homes is one as well. How can slowing life down to make time each day and week for family worship help us to focus on the most important thing in life: our faith and hope in Christ?

Evaluate your life and your motivations for doing what you do. Why do you attend church? Why do you serve in ministry? How could you make your study and prayer time more effective and meaningful? Are you mentoring or discipling another believer? How can sharing your faith with other believers make fellowship even sweeter? Why does the body of Christ need one another? How has God designed the body (1 Cor. 12)?