



House on the Rock

Building Godly families

P: Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. Matthew 7:24-27

Opening hymn

Chorus

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me...
Let me be singing
When the evening comes

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing...
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will

Sing Your praise unending...
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

I'll worship Your Holy name
Lord I worship Your Holy name

Songwriters - Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. **(To be repeated thrice)**

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.**

(Cong. to be seated)

1st Lesson Deuteronomy 32:4-18

2nd Lesson 1 Peter 2:1-10

Meditation

A Biblical Definition for a Godly Family

At no other time in history has the doctrine of the family come under more fire, stirred more controversy, and suffered more chaos than at this point in human history. Thousand upon thousands of authors write on the topic. Speakers travel all over the globe hosting conferences devoted to the subject. Politically the subject is explosive with politicians at the local, national, and global levels differing and even arguing at times as to what constitutes a family and what is good for the family. Millions of dollars are spent by lobbyists to persuade people to their particular point of view as to what the family ought to be or not be.

A Biblical Perspective

The very beginning of the Bible opens with a story of God creating a family unit (Genesis 1-3). The four basic elements in the first family unit are: (1) God created the idea of family; (2) God created two genders to come together to form a family bond. (3) The man and woman forming a family unit were adults as God created them in adulthood status; and (4) There was a headship principle in place.

In both Testaments the family ideology revolves around God leading, guiding, protecting, dwelling with, and communing with his people. It is a place where God is present, a place where he is actively sought after through prayer, meditation on his word, and it is a place where the individuals submit themselves unto the order that God has so established for the home.

A godly family is one where each person in the family seeks to be conformed into the image of God. It is a harmonious arrangement where the head of the family takes the lead role to encourage and guide the individuals into the image of God as he submits himself unto his head, Jesus Christ (see 1 Cor. 11:3).

The family of God is not about the people themselves. It is ultimately about the glory of God being magnified through those individuals. A godly, bible based and holy family is a place where God reigns as the supreme focus over all else.

Hymn

O give us homes built firm upon the Saviour,
Where Christ is Head, and Counsellor and Guide;
Where ev'ry child is taught His love and favor
And gives his heart to Christ, the crucified:
How sweet to know that tho' his footsteps waver
His faithful Lord is walking by his side!

O give us homes with godly fathers, mothers,
Who always place their hope and trust in Him;
Whose tender patience turmoil never bothers,
Whose calm and courage trouble cannot dim;
A home where each finds joy in serving others,
And love still shines, tho' days be dark and grim.

O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master,
The Bible read, the precious hymns still sung;
Where prayer comes first in peace or in disaster,
And praise is natural speech to ev'ry tongue;
Where mountains move before a faith that's vaster,
And Christ sufficient is for old and young.

O Lord, our God, our homes are Thine forever!
We trust to Thee their problems, toil, and care;
Their bonds of love no enemy can sever
If Thou art always Lord and Master there:
Be Thou the center of our least endeavor:
Be Thou our Guest, our hearts and homes to share.

L: Raising a Godly Family (Jim and Jessica Hall)

Godly families are the bedrock of any spiritual community, and having godly children is a blessing that many parents long for. The big question many ask is how does one actually produce a godly family. Issues of parenting and family discipline are not easy to advise on, because hard and fast rules are difficult to come by. Even a cursory look at both biblical and historical heroes of faith shows that these men and women were not necessarily the best parents. So, is there any hope?

Godly Families Begin with Godly Marriages

Marriage is a God covenant, a God idea—it was not just a good idea thought up by someone down the centuries. The permanency of such a covenant, in an age where marriage is anything but permanent, is the primary foundation to create a good bedrock for a godly family.”

Raising Godly Children Is a Parent’s Mandate and Responsibility

“Teach your children to know God and bring them up in the church. Very seldom do parents have trouble with children when the Bible is read regularly in the home, grace is said at the table and family prayers take place daily. Most trouble with teenagers comes from children reared in homes where prayer is neglected, the Bible is never opened, and church attendance is spasmodic.

Christian parents must always be aware that it is their own responsibility as parents to bring their children up in the love and nurture of the Lord. So many couples abdicate this responsibility and seek to transfer it onto their church leaders and church communities. Other influences can be good, but cannot replace parental responsibility before God.”

Discipline in a Godly Family

Discipleship is about living in obedience to God’s will and purpose; many people find it difficult to live in obedience to God when they have never learnt to be obedient to their parents in the first place. People often equate discipline and punishment as being the same thing; it is not. A couple must be united, one together, with the disciplines they place around their family for safety and protection. Punishment only occurs when children flagrantly disobey what they have been clearly told by their parents to do, or not to do.

Praying as a Family

“It can be cliché, but it is true—the family that prays together, stays together. Parents must pray together as a couple, and with their children. The importance of such a family altar can never be emphasized enough. Many have asked us through the years, ‘At what age do you start to pray with your children?’ The truth is that couples should already be praying together before the children arrive, as part of a healthy marriage, so that when children are born, they are brought into the correct environment. A family’s life in God together should never be underestimated—it is the foundation of a strong family in an ungodly world.”

Families who pray, pull, and play together stay together, and shine out as a bright light in a dark and confused world.

L: Raising Godly Families

Raising families may be tough, as our times are spiritually rough,
The roads that many take today, can lead youth spiritually astray;
Though times continue to change, God above, remains the same,
So that on The Lord's Revelation, we can have a firm foundation.

The Lord has a design for us, for families following Christ Jesus,
Regarding the families we raise, for The Lord's honor and praise,
Building on the Truths of Christ, we guide children to Eternal Life,
As God's plan moves the family, to a new life with God, eternally.

As we follow our Lord above, our families must be raised in love,

They must become our priority, as we sacrificially love the family,
Sacrificing even our own desire, for a priority much, much higher,
When we provide for the family, they obtain strength and security.

To those who we need to reach, it is necessary to biblically teach,
Godly character and God's Ways, as we lead them in these days,
Leading them in this world of sin, we must teach Godly discipline,
With Godly boundaries in this life, being followers of Jesus Christ,

It is a must we model personally, real Christ likeness to our family,
So that through our life we reveal, a God to them, who is truly real,
While teaching with a caring heart, in hope that they will not depart,
When times fill them with dismay, so, on God's path they will stay.

Fervently, we must always pray, for the family each and every day,
Knowing that we need help from, The Lord, when hard times come;
Finally, through all times it is a must, that in all things we fully trust,
The final outcome of our family, to the Lord, who's over all eternity.
- Poem by Bob Gotti

(Cong to stand)

Thanksgiving Prayer

***C: Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.***

Psalm 128

P: Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
² You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.
³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.
⁴ Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord.
⁵ The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.
⁶ May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel!

***C: All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.***

*Hymn- Words by Martin Rinkart translated from German to English by Catherine Winkworth, 1856.
Nun Danket attributed to Johann Crüger, 1647*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

L: Lord, from whom all families of the earth derives its name, we kneel before your throne for the families of our Church. You know the pain and sufferings the enemy has created in between couples who had covenanted to love and cherish one another. We ask for your added grace for them to love, forgive and renew their covenant through the power of your Spirit.

C: Hear our Cry O Lord, attend unto our prayers as you are the Master builder of our Homes.

L: Lord, who is our ROCK and our Salvation, we pray for those of our family members who have still not committed their lives completely to your Will and purposes. Some have gone astray and have lived to displease you and your Holy purposes. We pray for your grace to be granted to them and for all of us to repent and come back to you, who is our loving Heavenly Father.

C: Hear our cry O Lord, attend unto our prayers as you are the God of love and Grace

L: Lord, who is the Master Healer and doctor of doctors, we pray for those families who are struggling with various illness, diseases, with emotional and mental disturbances. You are the God who heals and restores and gives life to those in need. We pray that you will heal our sickness and grant grace to go through the suffering and to experience your presence and love even through these difficult moments of our life.

C: to be sung

***Hear my cry, O Lord my God
Listen to my prayer, from earth's end.
I call to you, when my heart is faint.***

***Set me high on a rock,
You are my refuge. O Lord.***

Hear my cry, O Lord my God

L: Lord, who is the defender of the weak and lowly, we pray for those homes who are battling through various crisis of injustice and pain. We pray that you will intervene in their situation and redeem them from their crisis situation. Grant to them the grace to depend on you fully during this time and may they see your deliverance soon.

C: Hear our cry O Lord, attend unto our prayers, as you are the God of Justice and righteousness.

L: Lord, who is the God of generations, we pray for the couples who are childless both within our Church and outside. In you is life and you are the author of everything. We pray that you will grant the desire of every longing heart.

C: Hear our cry O Lord, attend unto our prayer as you are the God who knows us from our mother's womb.

L: Lord, who is the God who wanted us to bring our Children to you, we bring them now in your presence. We pray that each of them will be touched and blessed by you and that they will know you as their heavenly Father. Grant them wisdom and grace to pursue godly values and live as your witness in the place where you have planted them

***C: Hear my cry, O Lord my God
Listen to my prayer, from earth's end.
I call to you, when my heart is faint.***

***Let me stay in your tent
Safe in the shade of your wings.***

Hear my cry, O Lord my God

L: Lord, who calls us and appoints us as families, grant us the grace to do our roles in the best way as your Word admonishes us as fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces, so that we will accomplish our God given responsibilities as disciples of Jesus Christ in our homes.

C: Hear our cry O Lord, attend unto our prayers as you are the God who instituted the family for your purposes to be fulfilled.

L: Lord, who is the God of all nation, we pray for our state and central government. We pray for Godly leaders to reign over us. Give us a stable government in the state and give us a government of your choice in the forthcoming elections that all families of our nation will rejoice over the right leadership to govern our Nation.

**C: *Hear my cry, O Lord my God
Listen to my prayer, from earth's end.
I call to you, when my heart is faint.***

***I will echo your praise
Pay my vows day after day.***

Hear my cry, O Lord my God

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by Matthew 7:24-27

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified †also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles.

We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Birthday & Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship our spirit finds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one—
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes;
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and oneness reign
Through all eternity.

Lyrics: John Fawcett (1740-1817)
Music: Hans Georg Nageli (1773-1836)

Offertory Hymn

God, give us Christian homes!
Homes where the Bible is loved and taught,
Homes where the Master's will is sought,
Homes crowned with beauty Your love has wrought;
God, give us Christian homes;
God, give us Christian homes!

God, give us Christian homes!
Homes where the father is true and strong,
Homes that are free from the blight of wrong,
Homes that are joyous with love and song;
God, give us Christian homes,
God, give us Christian homes!

God, give us Christian homes!
Homes where the mother, in caring quest,
Strives to show others Your way is best,
Homes where the Lord is an honored guest;
God, give us Christian homes,
God, give us Christian homes!

God, give us Christian homes!
Homes where the children are led to know
Christ in His beauty who loves them so,

Homes where the altar fires burn and glow;
God, give us Christian homes,
God, give us Christian homes!
Author: B. B. McKinney Tune: CHRISTIAN HOME

MESSAGE

Closing Prayer

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Let us pray together

C: Lord Jesus who instituted family and Church, help us to live out Christ-like lives both in our Home and Church and enable us to be true disciples of Jesus Christ by showing your love and harmony within our own home and outside. We need you to guide us in being our witnesses in this world that is so corrupt and evil. Give us the grace as a family to be united in love, rooted in your Word and growing in your likeness, day by day through the power of your Spirit. As we now depart from here, fill us Lord with your Spirit, to work on the unseen aspect of our foundations by listening to you daily and obeying your Word. Help us to be caring about the needs of our Church and make us work diligently for the furtherance of your Kingdom. Come with us Lord Jesus as you went to Zacchaeus' home and bring transformation to all our lives, so that our homes will be a shining Lighthouse to bring Hope to our community and our city. We pray this in JESUS Name.
AMEN

BENEDICTION

P: May the family of the God-head who made us in his image, make every person of your family shine as his witness for the glory of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Hymn and Kiss of peace

Happy the home when God is there,
and love fills every breast;
when one their wish, and one their prayer,
and one their heavenly rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' name
is sweet to every ear;
where children early speak his fame,
and parents hold him dear.

Happy the home where prayer is heard,
and praise each day does rise;
where parents love the sacred Word
and all its wisdom prize.

Lord, let us in our homes agree
this blessed peace to gain;
unite our hearts in love to thee,
and love to all will reign.

Text: Henry Ware, Jr., 1794-1843 **Music:** John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

“You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.” –Desmond Tutu

“The strength of a family, like the strength of an army, lies in its loyalty to each other.” – Mario Puzo

“Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.” –Jane Howard

In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together, and the music that brings harmony." — Eva Burrows

"There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues, the most dominating virtues of humans, are created, strengthened and maintained." -Winston Churchill

"Family: a social unit where the father is concerned with parking space, the children with outer space, and the mother with closet space." – Evan Esar

"To know more about and be part of Young Families Fellowship, please contact Varkey Chacko (988...) or Binesh Zachariah (98451 83251)"