

# **God's Relationship to the Family**

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## I. Introduction.

- A. God understands us and He loves us.
- B. Fearing the Lord is living with a profound awareness of the Person and character of God.
- C. You get to know Jesus, you get to know God. Jesus is God made available.
  - 1. Jesus and the Father are one. (John 6:45)
  - 2. Fearing the Lord is living with a profound awareness consequently of the Person and character of Jesus Christ.

II. The man who fears the Lord will have his family blessed and see his sphere of influence spread too. This is the sequence of life. (Psalm 128)

III. The priorities of life are laid in Ephesians 4:11-12.

- A. You start with your personal life.
- B. You move on to the home.
- C. You end with your business.
- D. Ministry becomes an integration of the three.

IV. How to apply Psalm 128 to the family.

- A. The man who fears God walks in His ways. These are the prescribed paths of the Lord.
- B. The wife should be kept the heart of the home. (Colossians 3:18-19)
  - 1. The wife is to submit. This means she should rank under. This is fitting in the Lord.
  - 2. Husbands is to love their wives—this is a choice to freely accept another as they are like they are and seek their good.
  - 3. God made man and woman equal intimate partners who were different but sin entered during the Fall and marred the marriage relationship. The wife began to

desire to control her husband, and the husband began to desire to dominate her. (Genesis 1:28-29, 3:16)

4. Paul's answer in Colossians 3:18 reverses this problem, but too often spouses are concerned about the other's responsibility and this leads to conflict.

C. Children are to be brought up in nurturing. (Ephesians 4, 1 Samuel 1:1-3))

1. We are to honor God more than our children.

2. We are to pray for them and claim promises for them.

3. We are to honor the wife as the heart of the home. (1 Peter 3:7)

4. We have to be willing to pay the price. (Isaiah 29:41)

5. Parents should never be on the run from their children. Children need to be lovingly restrained.

6. Children need to be brought up to know the Lord. This has to do with your life as a whole.

### **Application questions**

1. What does it mean to fear the Lord and how does this apply to family life?

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2. How should the wife be treated in the home?

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3. How would you summarize what it is to nurture children according to the message?

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