



We Value Strong Families

- 1. We value relationships that lead to discipleship.
(organic)***
- 2. We value obedience to the Word of God.***
- 3. We value devotion to prayer.***
- 4. We value commitment to investment in the mission of
the Church.***

1. Special days are accompanied by a **myriad** of emotions.
2. Before there was a nation, church, or city there was a **family**.
3. Families that are healthy and strong establish a **foundation** for society.
4. God has described the **Church** as a family.
5. **Attention** and **obedience** to God's Word builds strong families.

Ephesians 5:21-6:4 (NLT2) ²¹ *And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* ²² *For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.* ²³ *For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church.* ²⁴ *As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.* ²⁵ *For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her* ²⁶ *to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.* ²⁷ *He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.* ²⁸ *In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself.* ²⁹ *No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.* ³⁰ *And we are members of his body.* ³¹ *As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."* ³² *This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.* ³³ *So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself,*

and the wife must respect her husband. ^{6:1} Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ² “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: ³ If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

1. Foundational attitudes strong families embrace

1. The motivation for proper attitudes in marriage is the reverence of the Lord.

2. Mutual submission is the basis of marriage. Avoid contention.

Proverbs 21:9 (ESV) ⁹ It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

Proverbs 21:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ It is better to live in a desert

land than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.

Proverbs 25:24 (ESV) ²⁴ It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

Proverbs 26:21 (ESV) ²¹ As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

Proverbs 27:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ A continual dripping on a rainy day and a quarrelsome wife are alike; ¹⁶ to restrain her is to restrain the wind or to grasp oil in one's right hand.

3. God planned for marriage to be built on trust, honor, respect, and love.

4. The foundational role of a husband to his wife is sacrificial love.

(this does not encourage or even allow for a husband to be domineering)

5. The foundational role of a wife to her husband is submission.

What makes this so controversial and inflammatory?

1. The natural tendency of humanity is to focus on our rights more than our responsibilities.

2. The devil is constantly challenging the commands of God.

3. Society has chosen a path of depravity. Our own dysfunction creates more disfunction.

6. The Christian home should be a place of mutual concern.

In the Christian home there should never be abuse, dominance, or humiliation.

7. Children are commanded to obey parents because the children belong to the Lord.

8. The Christian home should be a place of correction and instruction.

9. The Christian home should be place of love, encouragement, and nurture.

PARENTS MUST CREATE A HEALTH HOME ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES GROWTH

10. The Christian home should be a place of training in godliness. BIBLE IS KEY TOOL

11. Parents may have different **assignments** but a **common goal**—*Producing godly children who follow the Lord completely.* **NEVER LET THE ENEMY PUT YOU ON OPPOSITE SIDES.** Not competition but completion, not adversaries but allies.
12. Building strong homes and productive children should be top priority for believers.
13. The Christian home should encourage a **personal encounter** with God.

2. Three key action points

1. Make sure you are part of God's family.
2. Take personal responsibility to do your part to build a strong family.

Galatians 6:7-10 (ESV) ⁷ *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.* ⁸ *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

3. Keep praying for family members who have drifted away from the faith and believe for them to return to God.