

The ministry of family - To the world

We have considered 3 aspects of parental ministry to family - Major issues – temperament & egocentrism; mentoring and modeling. Now we consider the fruit of that work, the ministry of family out to the world.

1. The Christian family unit is God’s most basic divine agency on the earth.

- Family unit – marriage and children
- Family was the divine custodian of the gospel and word/God until Moses
- Parents mentoring and modeling the spiritual life influencing children
- Children influenced by the faith of their parents establish their own spiritual life

2. Laws of Divine Establishment protect parental freedom to train children

- I Volition/Freedom – human freedom
- II Marriage – one man – one woman
- III Family – parents – children
- IV Nations – divided by languages – dispersed around the world

1Tim 2:1-4 – pray for authority – live peaceful lives – free to choose our own values

- Human freedom in a nation gives parents choice in what/how they train children
- Human freedom prevents governmental interference with the family & the church
- Activism encroaches on parental and religious freedoms – schools

3. The family is God’s primary means of passing His message to the following generations.

Gen 4:25-5:32 – line of Seth – divine agency of antediluvian period

2Tim 1:5 – Timothy – Grandmother Lois & mother Eunice

Eph 5:1 – God’s parenting influences us to become imitators – divine parenting

- The primary influence in a child’s life is parental mentoring and modeling.
- Most salvation decisions are made before 20 years of age – parental influence
- The church is made up of families – families are the lifeblood of the church
- As go the marriages, so go the children & so goes the church – the critical issue
- Ministry begins at home – are we emphasizing church education dept. enough?

4. Family is the vehicle through which truth/good & also lie/evil are passed.

Gen 3:15 – seed/serpent and seed/woman – seed = children influenced by family

Gen 4:17-24 – Cain and his descendants – 4th generation Lamech – polygamy, murder, vicious vengeance, arrogance

Gen 4:25-32 – Seth, Enosh – Men began to call on the name of the Lord – Noah

Enoch – walked with God and was not

- Parents pass on good/bad genetics, beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, etc.
- Parents pass on sin nature proclivities and old man beliefs and behaviors
- Parents pass on moral values – honesty, integrity, work ethic, compassion
- Parents model love & focus on spiritual values – faith, hope, love word & God

5. Children can overcome environmental handicaps from their families.

Josh 24:2 – Terah – father of Abraham – served other gods – idolatry

Gen 12 – Abraham – leave country, relatives & father's house – go to the land

Ur of the Chaldees was a place of worship for at least 12 false gods

- Abraham was able to avoid the evil practices of his family's idolatry
- Abraham avoided the influence of culture and family and was open to God
- God offers whosoever the grace to overcome any handicap in life.
- Anyone can reverse the trends of their family and move toward God.

Exodus 34:6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."