

## Christ-Centered Homes

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### Introduction: Envision a Christ-Centered Home for your Family!

- A. What do you *really* want for your family?
  1. In the busyness of life, a family can easily lose their sense of direction; lose sight of what is most important; forget what the family *really* needs.
- B. If we claim to be Christians, our number one heart's desire for our family should be to have a "Christ-centered home."
- C. The blessings of a Christ-centered home are many and so very important!

### I. Christ-Centered Homes Have Spiritual Leadership and Teamwork.

- A. Christian men must step up and lead!
  1. The husband/father is to be the spiritual leader ("head") (**Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Pet. 3:6; 1 Cor. 11:3; cf. Gen. 18:19a; Eph. 6:4**).
  2. Fathers are the *primary* teachers of God's word of the children.
  3. Every man will have to give an account to God (**2 Cor. 5:10**). Do not say, "*Who am I that I should lead?*" (cf. **Exod. 3:11**).
  4. You cannot force your spouse to lead or follow, but you can be a good example through your steadfast commitment to the Lord (**1 Pet. 3:1-2**).
- B. The husband and wife should work *together* to accomplish spiritual goals.
  1. Husband and wives are to be united as one (**Mat. 19:5; cf. 1 Cor. 6:17**).
  2. There is great spiritual strength to a family when husband and wife are united in the Lord in their service to God (**Eccl. 4:12**).
  3. Husbands must treat their wives with equality and honor (**1 Pet. 3:7**).
  4. Wives must respect their husbands as the spiritual leader (**Eph. 5:33**).
  5. Working together as a *team*, parents can have a great positive, *spiritual* impact on their children (**Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:4b**).

### II. Christ-Centered Homes are Centered on His Word.

- A. The Bible is lifted up as the *most* important book in the house (**2 Tim 3:16-17**).
  1. Spiritual education is put above the secular (**1 Cor. 1:18-20ff.**) and Scripture reading/teaching above the writings of men (**1 Tim. 4:13**).
  2. The Bible can transform and build up your family (**Heb 4:12; Ac 20:32**).
- B. Continual, daily discussions of God's word (**Deut. 6:5-7**).
  1. Christ-centered families do not restrict Scripture to a formal Bible study, but talk about God's word *constantly* at every opportunity.
  2. "*Teach them diligently*" (Heb. SHANAN) meaning you implant God's word into their hearts by *persistently repeating* it over and over again.
- C. Abiding by "the golden rules" of Christ
  1. Walking by the same rule, the rule of Christ (**Phil. 3:16; Col. 3:12-14**).
  2. For marriages to stay strong, *the rules of love* need to be followed (**1 Cor. 13:4-8; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:2; 5:25, 28; Tit. 2:4; Jas. 2:8; 1 Pet. 4:8**).
  3. Children need rules, boundaries, and structure. The order of God will bring peace, safety, stability, and comfort to home life (**Prov. 6:20-23**).

### III. Christ-Centered Homes strive to be Like Christ.

- A. Jesus is the role model family members imitate (**1 Cor. 11:1; cf. 1 Pet. 2:21**).

1. In the family, who do we talk about the most? Who do we aspire to be like? *Can our children tell that it is Christ that we admire the most?*

B. Spiritual growth or “character building” is the goal for *every* family member (**Col. 1:28**).

1. Parents must demonstrate that they themselves are committed to self-improvement, putting on the “new man” each day (**Eph. 4:22-24**).

2. Imitating the love of Christ is the goal (**John 15:12-13**; cf. **Phil. 2:5-8**).

C. Sin is addressed with Gospel principles.

1. Sin is not ignored or tolerated, but confronted *honestly* by the word of God for *every* family member (**Luke 17:3**; **2 Tim. 3:16**).

2. No “keeping score” but forgiveness (**Lk. 17:4**; **Mt. 18:22**; **1 Cor. 13:5**).

3. Christ-centered homes practice the forgiveness of Christ! (**Eph 4:31-32**)

#### **IV. Christ-Centered Homes Have Only One Master and Lord.**

A. Jesus is the *only* Master of the house (*His house and yours too!* -**Eph 1:21-22**).

1. Jesus is to be respected the one in charge of God’s household (**Heb 3:6**).

B. Nothing of the world is allowed to compete for their devotion to the Lord.

1. When a family busies their lives with too many activities of the world, Christ will no longer be their master (**Mat. 6:24**; cf. **1 Cor. 6:12b**).

2. Devotion to the Lord or holiness is to be given priority over friendship with the world (**2 Cor. 6:17-18**; cf. **Jas 4:4**; **1 Jn. 2:15-17**; **John 15:19**).

#### **V. Christ-Centered Homes are Busy in the Work of the Lord.**

A. Servants of Christ *abounding* in the work of the Lord (**1 Cor. 15:58**).

1. A Christ-centered family is not “lukewarm” or indifferent toward the work of the Lord (**Rev 3:16**), but works as a team to accomplish His work.

B. The work of the Lord is not a mere hobby, but *center* to family life!

1. Make *God’s* work a priority (**Gal. 6:10**; e.g., **Mat. 25:35-40**; **Jas. 1:27**).

2. The work of the church is supported by Christ-centered families who want to do their part to reach the lost, build up the church, and care for members who are in need (**Mat. 28:19-20**; **Eph. 4:16**; **Acts 2:45**; **11:29**).

#### **VI. Christ-Centered Homes Worship the Lord!**

A. Worship is not restricted to the assembly, but a *daily* occurrence in the home.

1. Taking the time to pray as a family, to express praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, is a needed reminder of who is *most* important (**Heb. 13:15**).

2. Prayer is a place of needed refuge, a vital source of strength for a family to overcome the trials of life and be at peace (**Ps. 18:1-2**; cf. **Phil. 4:6-7**).

3. Sing spiritual songs to draw close to God *and* to one another (**Col 3:16**).

B. Worship at home prepares the family for worship with the church (**Jn 4:23-24**).

C. Worship at home prepares the family for Eternity in Heaven (**Rev. 4:10-11**).

#### **Conclusion: What are you willing to do for a Christ-Centered home?**

A. A Christ-centered home requires your love, a willingness to *sacrifice your all* for the spiritual well-being of your family (**John 15:13**).

B. Time with family is precious, so do not waste it (**Eph. 5:16**; **Jas. 4:14-17**).

C. *Total* commitment to build your home upon the Rock is essential (**Mt 7:24-27**).

D. It will be difficult to break bad habits and establish routines, so patience and perseverance is a must for a Christ-centered home; *so do not give up!*