

The Benefits of Family Worship

Geoffrey R. Kirkland

Christ Fellowship Bible Church

“Come my children, listen to me and I will teach you the fear of the LORD” (Ps 34:11). Parents must teach their children the works, and commands, and ways of God (Ps 78:5). In the days of Moses, fathers were to teach their children so they would learn to fear the LORD (Deut 4:10). The father who gathers his family to worship the living God not only leads his family well, cares for the souls and eternal well-being of his children, but he incurs the blessing of God on his household. “God blesses the dwelling of the righteous” (Prov 3:33).

1. Family Worship Glorifies God.

God deserves to be worshiped. The angel told the Apostle John: “Worship God” (Rev 22:9). Families exalt the glory of God when they gather together to beseech God in prayer, hear from God in the Word, and praise God in song. The most glorious activity a person could embark upon is the magnification of the majesty and grandeur and supremacy and joy of God.

2. Family Worship Instructs the Children.

God demands that fathers (and mothers are implied) must instruct his children. Fathers must bring up their children in the “discipline and instruction of the LORD” (Eph 6:4). Children enter the world selfish by nature and God-haters in their hearts. Parents must begin from the earliest of days to instruct the children in the Word of God so they know God, sin, Christ, and salvation.

3. Family Worship Prevents Sin.

In opening the Bible each day and reading it as a family, it blesses the home since it exposes the evil of sin, the pervasiveness of sin, the deceptiveness of sin, and the devastating effects of sin. This becomes a powerful tool in preventing sin in the home. The hearts of all people, even the redeemed, still are sinful yet the daily reading and teaching from the Bible can do a great deal in preventing iniquities and calamities from occurring that might have happened if the Word was neglected.

4. Family Worship Models Piety in the Home.

Family worship is never merely for the *immediate*. Family worship focuses on coming generations; that is, it is long-term focused. The father leads his home in family worship consistently and seriously because he wants his children to come to faith and then lead their families in family worship so that their children will grow up, marry, and engage in regular family worship in their families. The multi-generational mindset is imperative in family worship. This is vital so that fathers don't lose heart when the children seem to be uninterested, unengaged, or unaffected by family worship.

5. Family Worship Brings Comfort in Trying Times.

No one expects calamities to come; at least, upon them. God's people do not know when the waves of sorrow and the clouds of despair will burst upon their heads. But family worship provides a daily, regular, fervent, intimate time of coming before the throne of Almighty God in prayer, seeking His perfect wisdom and transforming grace in the Word, and worshiping Him even when everything is crashing down in one's life simply because God Himself deserves to be worshiped.