

THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH
#1: Unless the Lord Builds the House
June 10-12, 2006

¹Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. ²In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves. ³Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. ⁴Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. ⁵Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

Psalm 127 TNIV

Introduction: God’s plan to shape His world always involves community, and the centerpiece of that community is the nuclear family. The family is the first fellowship created by God, a response to His desire that we not live in isolation. Paul chose the marriage relationship as the closest earthly equivalent to that between Christ and the church. In a real sense, the church itself is a family of families. Psalms 127 and 128 help us understand what sort of family God intends as the center of His plan for His creation.

- I. The Godless Household
 - A. If the family is not built upon the sure foundation of belief in God, building it is a waste.

[Jesus said,] “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Matthew 7:24-25 TNIV
 - B. If God is not the very center of our lives, homes, and communities, then there is nothing in our cities worth defending.

- C. If our labor is not directed toward the creation of great Christian homes, then work is an idol.
- II. The Household of Faith
 - A. Children are the future, and thus of premier importance in the present.
 - B. Whether we are blessed with offspring or not, we have a responsibility to pass our Christian heritage to the next generation.

He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children. *Psalm 113:9 TNIV*
 - C. To be given the opportunity to rear children is not a right or even a privilege, but a reward from God.
 - D. This is not to say that those who never have children are cursed, but that offspring are among God’s richest blessings.
 - E. Our children are the greatest weapons we have in the battle to shape our culture for God.
 - F. The man who has been made a father has been given a blessed responsibility.
 - G. When the future judges our faithfulness, our children will be exhibit A in our defense.

Conclusion: The household of faith is at the very center of God’s plan to protect and preserve His creation. As believers, our first responsibility is to allow God to build our houses so that they may honor Him.

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