

Power of a Strong Family

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I. A “strong” family is ...

A. Characterized by a _____ of its members to each other

⇒ _____ and _____ challenges from within and without

⇒ There is great _____ and _____ for one another

B. Each member _____ and _____ his or her

C. One in which _____ with family than with friends or the youth subculture

II. God’s means for strengthening family bonds

A. Get _____ for _____ as husbands and wives, and as parents.

1. It will _____ happen as a result of _____ or self-working Bible

2. Our children are impacted from _____ we _____ more than from _____ we

B. John the Baptist held the _____ for strong family

Mal 4:6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers... (Luke 1:17)

⇒ Strong family bonds were meant to be a _____ of his

C. God intends that parents & children _____ have their _____ together

⇒ A _____ is necessary because the heart is naturally turned towards

III. What in John’s ministry does God use to knit family hearts?

A. He preached the

*Luke 3:18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and **preached the good news** to them.*

⇒ The core of the good news is that God _____ with

Rom 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⇒ He proclaimed the need for and availability of _____ of

*Mark 1:4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance **for the forgiveness of sins**.*

⇒ If we do not know God is merciful we will _____ Him.

Mat 25:24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

B. He sought to _____ people to God.

Luke 1:16 Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.

⇒ Reconciliation has

Rom 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

*2 Cor 5:18 All this is from God, **who reconciled us to himself** through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

*Heb 10:10 And by that will, **we have been made holy** through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**.*

⇒ The fruit of grasping that you are accepted by God is

*Rom 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that **neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God** that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But **perfect love drives out fear**, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

⇒ He accepts us as

*2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure **in jars of clay** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

*2 Cor 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **my power is made perfect in weakness**." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

C. _____ of _____ played a key role in reconciliation.

Mat 3:6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Prov 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

⇒ The pressure on homeschoolers to appear _____ can

⇒ We will alienate our children if we are _____ and live behind

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

D. He pointed people to

Mat 3:3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

John 1:26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know."

John 1:34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

1. In Jesus alone is there _____ with God and

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

2. He portrayed Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb who would _____ for

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

3. He has made us _____ with God

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

4. He brought us _____ him

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

5. He allows us to _____ His presence

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

6. He did all our _____ for us and gave us the task of _____ in him

John 6:28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Rom 4:4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. 5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

E. The fruit of truly grasping the gospel is _____ of the _____ of God

⇒ Those who truly receive God's love will give it away to their children

Eph 3:17 ...I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.