

Seven Traits of A Healthy Family, Part One
Deuteronomy 6:1-9

1553

Theme: Family

Aim: To discuss some habits/traits of successful families

1. Where or how do we learn to be a family?
2. In generations past, we learned from the extended family that was always close by. Now we learn from other secular sources, media, school, Television where we have come from the Cleavers to the Bunkers to who knows what.
3. What are the characteristics of a healthy family? What does it take to be a successful family?
4. Whence cometh this information? From study, observation and experience.
5. Today four traits from scripture that have to do with what kind of person I am, because family is no better than the individuals involved.

I. Kindness, Ephesians 4:32.

A. Such is a characteristic of:

1. The new man in Christ.
2. An elemental characteristic of love, 1 Corinthians 13:4.
3. A characteristic of our Lord, Luke 4:22.

B. How is such manifested in our homes?

1. Hopefully our homes are no dominated by the bickering and quarrelling of many families depicted on TV. Yet I have been amazed at how some treat members of their own families.
2. By extending common courtesies to other family members.
3. Again, such is a part of love, 1 Corinthians 13:5.
4. Kindness can be expressed in a hundred ways – expressing gratitude and appreciation, sincere compliments, simple kind acts of service.
5. “To do careful and constantly and kindly many little things in ***not*** a little thing.”
6. “And be kind to one another...”

II. Giving and seeking forgiveness, Ephesians 4:32.

A. Again this is a characteristic of:

1. The new man in Christ.
2. A loving person.
3. Our Lord.

B. Note that I include giving and seeking forgiveness.

1. Compare Matthew 5:21-24, 18:15-20, 21-35.
2. Notice context of Matthew 18. See verses 6-10. For an adult to think we never need forgiveness from a child is vain and prideful.
3. Seeking and giving forgiveness is the first step in healing broken relationships and goes a long way in keeping healthy ones healthy.

III. Forbearance, Colossians 3:12-13.

A. Often tied together with patience, endurance or longsuffering.

1. Again such is characteristic of new man, love (1 Corinthians 13:5), the Divine.
2. If we cannot learn to forebear, we will not have healthy relationships.

B. Manifested in home by understanding and acceptance (or affirming) others.

1. Must develop realistic expectations (Joey and homework, Kevin).
2. Must realize and accept that some things are not going to change.

IV. Destiny and direction.

A. What is it that you want your family to be?

1. How will it get there? How will it become that?
2. One writer wrote of being “proactive” in the family.
3. What that means is you have to plan and work at it.
4. Successful families have a sense of destiny and direction.

B. I see it this way. What is the overall, inviolate principle of your families’ life? What is the guiding principle that cannot be compromised?

1. Jesus said you cannot serve two masters, Matthew 6.
2. Is your family truly Christian? Do we believe Matthew 6:33? Is that the guiding principle?
3. Children especially can see hypocrisy.
4. I pray that Matthew 6:33 is the deciding and directing principle in your family.

1. Four characteristics of the healthy, successful family: kindness, forgiveness, forbearance, direction and destiny.

2. More to come!

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