

# ***The God-Given Purpose of Families***

1 Timothy 3:4-5, 14-15

September 14, 2008

## 2 Questions to Answer

1. What is the God-given purpose of a family?
2. How should our homes be shaped?

# A household relates to our idea of family...

- 1 Timothy 5:8 *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and **especially for members of his household**, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
- 1 Timothy 3:5 *for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*

# The family and church are both households!

- 1 Timothy 3:5 *for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*
- 1 Timothy 3:15 *if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth*

# The church is a family!

God is the Father, Jesus is the Son.

Believers are Children of the father and others around us are our brothers and sisters. In fact, Jesus redefines what a family is when he said,

Matthew 12:50 *“For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”*

# What is the purpose of the church?

The church is the gathering of believers in Jesus Christ. It is both universal and local.

1. The community in which we experience and further the blessings and rule of God.
2. Gather together to praise, hear the word, pray, and serve.
3. Preach the Gospel and uphold truth
4. Sanctifying saints and salvation of sinners

# The purpose of family...

Thus our homes should be a place where the will of God is pursued in the community of our family in which we experience the blessing of God through singing praises, teaching his word, prayer, and applying the Gospel for the salvation and sanctification of sinners?

# Puritans on Family

...they looked at the home as the “little church” of which the father was the pastor.

James Fitch *“Such as families are...such at last the church and commonwealth must be.”*

William Cartwright *“Houses are nurseries of the church”*

Richard Greenham said: *“If ever we would have the church of God to continue among us, we must bring it into our households, and nourish it in our families.”*

# What do I desire to see in our families?

## 1. Family Worship

If the purpose of the church is to be carried out in the home then its order and structure should resemble the practice of the church.

# Family Worship

- 3 main components: singing praise, reading the word, and prayer
- It will look different in each home!
- Start off easy if you have never done it. If you have a routine, press on! It is never too late to start!

2. Our homes should be the community in which the Gospel is first applied so that the blessings of God can be experienced.

3. Households need to get outside of themselves and connect with the greater family that they are a part of in Christ.