

FAMILY STYLE
HOME DEVOTIONAL

Family is at the CENTER of God's heart and design for humanity.

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:26-28 NIV

1. The first thing that we need to know is: Each of us are created in the IMAGE of God.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

We are "image bearers". We were created BY God FOR God. God does not make mistakes, and everything He created He called GOOD!

A. As we come into RELATIONSHIP with God the father we are made NEW CREATURES.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

God does not come to make us BETTER; He comes to make us NEW! As new creatures we are empowered to bear the IMAGE of God in the earth.

Discussion Question: What are some ways that your relationship with God has CHANGED you? What are some things you would like Him to change?

B. Each of us has a Divine PURPOSE.

Everything that God created He created with PURPOSE. Purpose is defined as "the reason for which something is done or created, or for which something exists." Each of us has a "reason" that we are alive, and that reason is to give

God glory by how we live our lives before Him. Our enemy, the devil, is determined to confuse and keep us from our purpose.

C. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

God created us as we are with great purpose and identity in Him. Confusion in WHAT we are or WHO we are is not from God and it is not of God. God made you. He knows you and He loves you!

D. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, and compassion.

These principles are indispensable to the Christian family and as we walk in these principles with consistency, we become the FAMILY that God intends for us to be. As we practice these principles within the family unit, it strengthens the family bond and magnifies the family's purpose.

Discussion Questions: Which of these principles do you see in action in your family? Which ones do you feel you need to work on?

GODLY FAMILIES HAVE THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

UNITY

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

HONOR

"Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

Exodus 20:12

FORGIVENESS

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3:13

OBEDIENCE

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

Colossians 3:20

PEACEMAKERS

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Matthew 5:9

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:2-3

LOVE

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

1 Peter 4:8

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."

Proverbs 17:17

**Discussion Question: Which of these six characteristics does your family excel in?
Which ones do you need to strengthen?**

**Prayer: Lead a prayer that focuses on the family.
Allow the children to say a prayer for the family unit also.**