

Recommended Reading

God, Marriage, and Family by Andreas Kostenberger

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem (Ch. 37)

Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood,

John Piper & Wayne Grudem (ed.) (Ch. 13)

Father, Son, & Holy Spirit by Bruce Ware

Knowing God by J.I. Packer (Ch. 19)

Children of the Living God by Sinclair Ferguson

Adopted into God's Family by Trevor J. Burke

Course outline:

Week 1 – God's Purpose for the Family

Week 2 – The Ministry of the Family

Week 3 – Family Worship

Week 4 – Getting to the Heart of Behavior

Week 5 – What to Do When You Can't Reach the Heart

Week 6 – Formative Discipline: Our Words to Their Hearts

Week 7 – Corrective Discipline: The Rod of Correction

Week 8 – Panel Discussion

Week 9 – Boys & Fatherhood

Week 10 – Panel of Fathers

Week 11 – Girls & Motherhood

Week 12 – Panel of Mothers

Week 13 – Bringing It All Together: Proverbs

Core Seminars—Parenthood Class 2: The Ministry of the Family



Introduction

Review – significance of children

- Scripture teaches that a primary purpose of the family is nothing less presenting the whole world with a series of three portraits—of God's triune nature, the Gospel, and the church.

1. Two important caveats

- The significance of marriage

- The limits of the family in God's plan of revelation

2. The family ministers to the local church

- A well-ordered family is a powerful, God-ordained, universal witness to the church of what it ought to be.

- The theme of I Timothy
 - “I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household” (I Tim. 3:15)

- A beautiful symbiosis – the family blesses the church and the church blesses the family

- A question for singles

- A question for mothers

- A question for parents

3. The family ministers to the world

- Preparation for the Gospel

- Satan’s attack
 - It seems he wants to disintegrate and distort the family beyond recognition so that the Gospel is as inaccessible to people as possible.

 - Example: gender interchangeability

- Our view
 - We should view building strong families as a form of ministry, and opening our homes to non-Christians as an increasingly valuable evangelistic opportunity.

 - The significance of the home—and homemakers—in Scripture
 - Proverbs 31
 - John 14:2-4
 - Titus 2:5

 - The significance of the home in evangelism
 - At CHBC

 - Worldwide

 - The ministry of having children

Conclusion – the family as a gulf stream