

“A More Excellent Way”

Lesson 6: Loving Families Support One Another (1 Corinthians 13:7)

Intro:

1. The home should be a place of sanctuary for the family. It is the place where every family member can have confidence that they will be cared for and supported.
2. It is the place where spirituality and godliness rule. An escape from all of the vileness that the world has to offer. (Joshua 24:15)
3. Homes that fear the Lord are blessed. (Psalm 128)

I. Biblical examples of supportive families.

1. Supporting our families includes guidance in the commands of God. (Genesis 18:19)
2. Job was continually concerned about his children’s spiritual wellbeing. (Job 1:5)
3. Families are supportive when difficult days arrive. (John 11:1-5)
4. Loving families share the news of a loving Savior.
 - a. Cornelius (Acts 10:24-27)
 - b. Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)
 - c. Lois and Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5)
 - (1) Grandparents can have a tremendous impact on the spiritual wellbeing of their families.
 - (2) We cannot give our family members our faith, but we can support them as they grow their own personal faith.

II. God is a supportive Father. (Luke 15:11-32)

1. Free will allows us to make choices even if they are destructive.
2. Supporting our family members does not mean we approve of their choices. (vs. 13)

3. Love for our families includes allowing them to learn from the consequences of their poor choices. (vss. 14-16)

4. Supportive families are waiting and ready when the erring member “comes to himself.” (vs. 17)

a. We run to greet them as they are returning. (vs. 20)

b. We embrace them and welcome their return. (vs. 20)

c. We restore them to full relationship with the family. (vss. 21-24)

d. Being supportive requires us to forgive and let go. (vss. 28-31)

(1) It is right to celebrate the return of the erring.

(2) We should be thankful that we have had the continual support of the Father and did not require prodigal living to appreciate what we have.

III. Come home to the supportive Father

1. Come home to confess and receive forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)

2. Come home and know the comforts of a loving God. You need not live with the swine any longer. (2 Corinthians 1:3)

3. Come home and know the salvation found in Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-17)

Conclusion:

1. Our homes and families need to be places of refuge and support.

2. The family of God is designed to be supportive and encouraging.

3. Being part of the family of God gives us access to our “Father in Heaven” and allows us to experience the greatest blessings known to man.