

Worship Served Family Style – Part 2

Howard Hendricks

I. The quest of God for children.

- A. This constitutes Christianity.
- B. While every religion is man searching for God, Christianity is God searching for man.
 - 1. In the opening chapters of Genesis, God was the one who sought Adam.
 - 2. The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:10)
- C. God provided his Son for those to receive salvation.

II. The quest of God for worshippers.

- A. God is in quest for our saints to worship him. (John 4:23)
 - 1. This is not fully explainable, but it can be experienced.
 - 2. The importance of devotions is not what you get out of it, but what God gets out of it.
- B. The trouble with much of Christianity is that it is subjective.
 - 1. The pendulum of history swings.
 - a. There was a time when there was no personal relationship with God.
 - b. But we should not over-familiarize God and lose the sense of transcendence that he brings now.
- C. Worship is the Christians highest call.
 - 1. Worship is a response to divine revelation.
 - 2. True worship is interacting with God not man.

III. Family worship.

- A. Crutches (some of the excuses for not having family worship).
 - 1. No time.
 - a. The problem of priority.
 - b. We should all have time to do what God is seeking.
 - c. There is barrenness to busy-ness.

d. Much of our activity is an anesthetic to cover up the deadened life.

e. We have confused activity with accomplishment.

f. The word 'busy' is always used with something evil.

g. Jesus Christ was never in a hurry.

1) Mark 1 records the busiest day in Jesus' life.

2) So high on Jesus' priority list was fellowship with God that he arose early to pray to the Father following the busiest day.

h. Make a list of the things that you do.

1) The average American looks at the television for five hours a day.

2) We major on the minors.

2. It is not convenient to get the family together.

a. It never will be.

b. Christianity is not a thing of convenience or comfort—there is cost and conflict.

c. This must be a sacred appointment that is kept.

3. 'I don't know how.'

a. The most legitimate problem.

4. 'I don't need it.'

a. A problem of vision.

b. Often an issue of compartmentalized Christianity.

1) The Christian life is not a difficult life; it is an impossible life only doable through the Holy Spirit.

B. Components (what goes into it).

1. A time for prayer.

a. Speaker and wife get a loose leaf notebook and write on one side requests and the other side answers.

1) Personal example of prayer being immediately answered.

b. Sometimes we ought to thank God for unanswered prayers as well.

- c. We have become too educated in our prayers— clichés start to set in.
 - 1) Talk to the Lord; do not just say nice little prayers.
 - 2) We ought to instruct our families on different kinds of prayers.
 - 3) Prayer is more than petition—it is thanksgiving, intercession, etc.

2. The Bible.

- a. In prayer we talk to God; in the Bible God talks to us.
- b. We need to take the word of God and translate it in terms that are understandable to children.

3. Play.

- a. Are we teaching our children more than to sing little ditties?
- b. One of the great tragedies of our day is that our families are not raised to know the hymns of our day.

4. Devotional materials.

- a. Moody Bible Story Books.
- b. Stories for the Children's Hour, Devotions for the Children's Hour.
- c. Do not teach Biblical doctrine to adults alone - teach them to children.
- d. Romans for the Children's Hour.

C. Characteristics.

1. Regularity.

- a. Time is not important, but regularity is.
- b. Plan on a time - whatever it is.

2. Brevity.

- a. A mind can only embrace what the seat can endure.
- b. Be brief but not rushed.

3. Variety.

- a. Many Christians complain about how boring the time can be.
- b. Use a variety of different things to change the activities.

- 1) Discussion of days and prayer for witnessing.
 - a) Personal example of witnessing to neighbor.
- 2) Corresponding with missionaries.
- 3) Memory work.
- 4) Reading a portion of the Bible.

4. Informality.

- a. It does not have to be stuffy, formal, or boring.
- b. It should be child centered and participatory.

D. Conclusion.

1. Richard Baxter learned that revival would happen in the home.
2. We hear a lot about revival, but it is always in connection with the church. Could God be telling us we are working in the wrong place? If you ask God to bring revival in the home, it will happen in the church.

Application questions:

1. What excuse do you most commonly use when it comes to avoiding a consistent family worship time? Does it line up with the speaker's list? Is it a valid excuse?

2. What component of family worship stood out to you the most? Which characteristic was most striking? Explain.

3. Dr. Hendricks concludes his presentation with the model of Richard Baxter who brought revival to the home. What steps can you take to bring revival to your own home?
