

Investment Tips for Growing God's Family

Introduction

Warren Buffet is one of the richest men in America. In 1997, among the 70 or so people in this country who were worth 1 billion dollars or more, Buffet was the only one of only a few who acquired his wealth through investing. Many investors look to him for investment advice. His firm Berkshire Hathaway has one of the most widely read annual reports issued. And a book has been written about his investment strategies; it's called The Warren Buffet Way. If you could sit down with Warren Buffet to get some investment tips would you?

Imagine for a moment that your family is your greatest capital. If you could get some investment tips on how to grow it in quality, would you be interested?

We hold in our hands a treasure of investment strategies for growing our family relationships. The Bible, God's Word in written form, contains countless pro-family principles and precepts. If we learn and practice them they will make our family's relationally wealthy.

Objectives

We may well understand each of the following investment tips, however the objective of the Cool discussion today is served as a refresher or reminder to re-invest in our family.

Discussion

Tip #1: Understand each other (1 PET 3:7a)

Husbands are directly instructed to understand our wives. What does it mean to understand another person? It means to *"make what is important to the other person as important to you as the other person is to you."*

For instance, a husband who is not much a jazz music lover, had a wife who loves jazz music. So he took his wife to watch her favourite jazz music, which cost him some money & time, but proved to be a strong bonding experience for them. One day his friend asked him whether he loves jazz much ? and he said "No, but I love my wife that much!"

How do we develop an understanding spirit? By making the time to really get to know each other. And by making it a point to really listen to each other. (JAM 1:19)

Tip #2: Give some respect (1 PET 3:7b, EPH 5:33b)

Could it be the reason some of us are not experiencing the kind of relationship God wants to have with us because we do not have respect for Him? And could it be that the reason some family relationships are not harmonious is because we don't respect our spouse?

How can we show that we are honoring the people in our family relationships?

- By respecting each other's position & authority
- By respecting each other's privacy
- By respecting each other's time

The people who have the most difficulty respecting others are those people with an inflated idea of their own importance; the sinfully proud. Philippians 2:3 tells us to be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. (NLT)

Tip #3: Keep commitments (ECC 5:4-5)

Why is keeping our commitments and honoring our promises so important? Because we all tend to construct our hopes around promises. When we keep our commitments it builds trust. And there is no such thing as a healthy relationship apart from trust. Trust is the firm foundation upon which a family is built.

But keeping commitments can be costly. Got any commitments needing to be kept? Husbands and wives, when was the last time we revisited the vows we made on our wedding day? When we married we made a commitment that next to God our spouse would be the most important relationship in our lives. Does our time and attention reflect that?

Tip #4: Offer encouragement (1 THES 5:11)

Perhaps the easiest way to grow a healthy relationship is to offer encouragement & we can start from our homes :

- **By smiling**
Never underestimate the power of a smile. A smile not only increases your face value, but it warms the heart of those you give it to.
- **By our words**
Someone noted, "Man doesn't live by bread alone. He also needs buttering up." Words are power in that they can do enormous harm and amazing good.
- **By pointing out the positive.**
A reporter once asked Andrew Carnegie the great entrepreneur of the previous generation why he hired 43 millionaires to work for him. Carnegie pointed out that those men were not millionaires when he hired them.
The reporter then asked, "How did you develop these men to become so valuable to you that you paid them so much money?"
Carnegie replied that people are developed the same way gold is mined. When gold is mined, several tons of dirt must be moved to get an ounce of gold; but you don't go into the mine looking for dirt – you go in looking for gold!
Start today to look for gold in your child, in your spouse and in your parents. Jesus certainly must have seen the gold in the disciples he chose.
- **By giving gifts**
Are there any Barnabas' in your house? In Acts 4:36-37 we read there was a man named Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. 37 He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles for those in need. (NLT) Joseph, because of his behavior, was given the nickname "Son of Encouragement." One of the ways he practiced encouragement by giving gifts.

Tip #5: Ask for and offer forgiveness (COL 3:13)

Anyone who lives in a family of any kind knows that people will disappoint and hurt you. I asked my mom and dad, who've been married for 54 years, what were the secrets to their long and happy marriage. One gem of wisdom was "you overlook a lot of little things and you forgive each other."

Forgiveness is not natural. It seems to be more natural to carry a grudge; to record all wrongs in red on a legal pad in our minds; to think of ways of getting back at those who hurt us. Yet the Bible is clear in its instruction. As we have experienced forgiveness from God, we are to forgive others.

CONCLUSION

Keep continuing to invest in our family according to God's love, we shall reap the dividends at due time and be a blessing to many other families to glorify God's name.