

Family and the love of Christ

(Taken from many sources)

Introduction

Family is the most important and smallest unit of society. A study compared the life and descendants of 2 type of men, Jonathan Edwards – a servant of God, and Max Jukes – an atheist.

Max Jukes didn't believe in Jesus Christ and allow his children to go to church, even though they wanted to do so. Max Jukes had 1,026 descendants, 300 of them were jailed at the average age of 13 years old, 190 of them became prostitutes, and 680 of them became alcoholics. The US government had to suffer a loss of more than half million dollars to pay Jukes' family rehabilitation costs. Jukes' family didn't give any contribution to the society.

Jonathan Edwards also lived in New York at the same period with Jukes'. He loved the house of God and brought his children to go to church every Sunday. Jonathan Edwards had 929 descendants, 430 of them became ministers, 86 of them became university's professors, 13 of them became university's rectors, 75 of them became authors of best seller books, 5 of them were chosen to be the members of USA congress, 2 of them were chosen to be senate members, and 1 of them became vice president. Edwards' family was not a burden for US government, in the opposite; they contributed greatly to the society.

Ideal family implants true love and truth to the life of their family members so that they could grow and do God's will in their own lives - until the finishing line.

Sometimes there are families who reject one of their family members because of his belief in Christ. This is really a sad thing, but we have to remember that God will not leave us. He will give us the best solutions to overcome it when we put Him as the number one in our life.

Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Because of Christ's love, every believer has a big family: a Christian family. All of us need to grow and set Jesus, who has extraordinary love, as our example.

Objective

But the devil attacks the love in a family through relationship in a family, false teaching or diminishing time for the family.

Mat 24:11-13 And many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

(Read also 2 Tim 3:1-4)

This COOL material will discuss the reasons why love in a family becomes colder and what we should do to overcome it.

Discussion

The reasons why love in a family becomes colder and what we should do to overcome it.

1. Disappointment

Many people who practice love in their lives become disappointed when they see “the success” of other families, even though those families are less faithful to God. The devil will always compare their situations and as the result, their love to God becomes colder, and finally they make a decision to live outside God and leave His love.

Psalm 37:1, Prov 24:19 teach us not to envy others because God is a just God and He loves His children.

2. Self centeredness and selfishness

When we put our focus on ourselves and think that we are the only righteous people, we will not be able to accept the way we are and as the result, our love becomes colder.

Love is a sacrifice done for family or other people, just like God who loves us and gave us His only Son, Jesus, so that we could be saved. (John 3:16)

3. Inability to forgive

There is a saying that says that whatever we feed more will grow bigger. When we keep remembering our family member’s mistakes and weaknesses, our hatred and inability to love - which could destroy our own family - will increase.

The words of God (Prov 10:12, 17:9, 1 Pet 4:8, Col 3:13-15) teach us to practice a love which forgives, covers over a multitude of sins and unifies a family.

4. No commitment

There are many challenges in this time that capture our attention and make our commitments to our family become weaker, which include our material possession, lust and popularity. Let us remember the commitment of a husband to his wife, a father to his children as stated in Col 3:18-21 so that Christ’s love will become perfect in the family!

A prayer altar in the family invites Jesus to come into our family so that God’s love and blessings will come abundantly to our family. (Mat 18;19-20)

The knowledge of the words of God is not a guarantee of our love. A life which is based on the words of God and a life that live and apply the words of God are the life that will bear fruits. Let the love of Christ fill all of us, so that we are able to forgive other people, especially our family, and as the result, all of our families will become blessings wherever they are.

Finally, let’s read together the summary of the meaning of true love.

1 Cor 13:4-8a Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.