

# Family

Family originates in the Godhead; it is where a loving fellowship creates a community of persons in unity.

Family is a place of interdependency; not all function in equal authority but they are equal in personal value.

Family is a place of trust; it is where the members of the family feel most secure.

Family is a place of openness and faithfulness; it is where the truth is always spoken and no one lies about the others.

Family is a place of loyalty; it is where members of the family sacrifice themselves for other family members, especially the weak and needy.

Family is a place of caring; needy family members can rest secure that the other family members will take care of them when necessary.

Family is a place of honour; it is where the head of the family is honoured and respected. It is where the older members are given the most respect and care.

Family is a place of love; it is where all individuals in the family commit themselves to each other unreservedly.

Family is a place of priority; nothing comes before the family apart from honour and obedience to God. Service to the church, whilst important, does not override the needs of the family, for which we are directly responsible to God. Commitment to family is a crucial point of God's law (Exod 20:12; Deut 5:16; Matt 15:4, 19:19; Mk 7:10, 10:19; Lk 18:20; Eph 6:2).

Family is united; it is not separated by distance or other responsibilities.

Family is a place of forbearance; where there is tolerance of natural weaknesses.

Family is a place of education and edification; it is where the wise teach the foolish, the mature teach the immature and the learned teach the weak.

Family is a place of nurture; it is where all are cherished.

Family is a place of honesty; it is where divisive issues are openly discussed and not hidden to fester.

Family is a place of discipline; it is where serious faults are corrected and not ignored.

Families such as this are the building blocks of good society. Christian families built on these principles are the visible strength of the kingdom. The local church is meant to function as a family.