

Power of Service

Serving As A Family

February 7, 2010

Dr. David Bray

Joshua said, “But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15

God created the family unit, as well as the church family unit. It was the first thing that Satan attacked. Satan attacked Adam & Eve’s marriage, then he attacked the brotherhood of Cain and Able. Since that time until this very day, Satan is still attacking families. In America, families are under attack. Approximately 50% of marriages in America break apart. Children from fatherless homes are 20 times more likely to end up in prison (statistics from www.childrenjustice.org). Families have the stresses of finances and inflation, two parents working (or single parent homes), media that wants to suck our children into things that will skew their view of the world. Satan still knows that if he can create an unhealthy environment for our children that he can capture a generation of kids that will not serve the Lord. The goal of any family is to be a unit of people that are bonded together to help each other be on fire for God, and accomplish the purpose for which God has created that family.

Today’s Scripture: “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **7** But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. **8** This is why it says: ‘When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.’ **9** (What does ‘he ascended’ mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? **10** He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) **11** It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be

prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **12** to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:1-13)

For our family (church family or physical family) to serve effectively we must:

- 1) **Belong by adoption or new birth** - “For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. **19** Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household. . .” (Ephesians 2:4-22)
- 2) **Live up to your position** - “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” (Ephesians 4:1)
- 3) **Unite in direction** - “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **7** But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.” (Ephesians 4:2-5) **Unity can be accomplished through:**

A) **Humility** - “Be completely humble and gentle. . .” (vs. 2a)

B) **Conflict resolution** - “. . . be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (vs. 2b)

C) **Total Commitment** - “Make every effort. . .” (vs. 3)

D) **Defined purpose** - “. . . There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one

God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (vs. 4-6)

E) **Forgiveness** - “But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.” (vs. 7)

4) **Lead with a servants heart** - “This is why it says: ‘When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.’ **9** (What does ‘he ascended’ mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? **10** He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) **11** It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **12** to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:8-13) (John 13 & Luke 22:24 - 28)

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