

# **The Family**

## **A Foundation Stone in God's Plan**

### **Genesis 1:26-28; 2:24**

There are few things more important to the success of God's purpose for the planet than is the family. Nations and congregations largely stand or fall on the strength of the family. Let's consider some things that make the family strong.

#### **Acceptance**

- Boundaries (cf. II Tim. 2:5)
- Patience (II Tim. 4:2)
- Tough love (Heb. 12:4-17; II Cor. 5:1-5)
- Constructive forgiveness (Matt. 6:12-15; 18:21-22; Lk. 17:3-4)
- Love (Jn. 3:16; Eph. 5:23; Col. 3:14; Titus 2:3-5; I Pet. 4:8)

#### **Encouragement**

- Positive reinforcement (Matt. 25:20-23)
- Appreciation (Phil. 1:3)
- Challenging, but realistic expectations (Eph. 6:4)

#### **Selflessness**

- It's not about me, mine, us, ours, etc. (Lk. 9:23; Matt. 10:37-39)
- God rules (Lk. 6:46; Dan. 4:26)
- Selfishness is made to look ugly (Jas. 3:6; Phil. 2:3)

#### **Jesus is a Permanent Guest**

- His values embraced (Jn. 4:34)
- His goals pursued (Matt. 28:18-20)
- His sacrifice honored (Gal. 6:14)
- He is loved (II Cor. 5:14-15)

Family is indeed pivotal in God's overall plan for the success of His cause. In some way we are all part of a family. Through acceptance, encouragement, selflessness, and a love for Jesus, let us all purpose to do family with a godly flair.

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