

Are Family Devotions Really Necessary?

Pastor Juan Palm, Trinity Lutheran Church, North Morristown, Minnesota
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1. Introduction:

- a) An old bad joke with a punchline that hurts.

2. We are Losing Our Children

- a) According to Barna Research 60% of young adults who regularly attended church quit when they leave home.
- b) We cannot depend on them returning when they get married and have children

3. The Shocking Facts about Sunday School

- a) Research for the book Already Gone: Why your kids will quit church and what you can do to stop it, by Ken Ham provides definitive evidence that Sunday School has failed to keep children in the faith and going to church after they leave home.
- b) In depth research of 1000 young adults in their 20's found that children who went to Sunday School were MORE likely to doubt the accuracy of the Bible, to defend abortion, to defend premarital sex, to question the Biblical account of creation, to view the church as hypocritical and more likely to believe that good people do not need to go to church!
 - The bigger problem with Sunday School may be attitudes.

4. The World is Opposed to EVERY truth of God

- a) The world is not neutral: “We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19, ESV)
 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be **lovers of self**, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. (2 Timothy 3:1-5, ESV)
- b) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.
(1 Peter 5:8-9 ESV)
- c) Attacks against the faith that are symptoms of the underlying disease
 - 10 Coveting your neighbor's wife
 - 9 Coveting your neighbor's house
 - 8 Lying and slander
 - 7 Theft and cheating

- If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. (2 Thessalonians 3:10a-12, ESV)
- 6 Adultery
- 5 Murder
- 4 Rebellion
- “The common complaint now is that youth is ill bred, wild and insolent. Children do not want to be subject to parents, pupils to teachers, servants to masters and mistresses; and obedience and order no longer exists among the young folk but only conceit and self-will. Everybody wants to do whatever he pleases and to be a young lord, free and unpunished. God will not allow matters to go on like this for any great length of time. Now whoever wants to be a Christian and listen should know that whether or not he wants to be subject does not depend on his choice. He should be so gladly and willingly. It is the will of God... I fear that the disobedience and self-will of the young folk will shortly be punished in a manner more terrible than anyone thinks. May God in His grace remove His own before this happens and keep them from witnessing the misery.”
- Martin Luther – Second exposition on 1st Peter, 1539

d) Attacks against the faith that are a deadly disease in and of themselves.

- 3 Worship and God's Word
- 2 Blasphemy
- 1 Idolatry

5. How, then, shall we live?

- a) These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
(Deuteronomy 6:6-9, ESV)
- b) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4, ESV)
 - don't delegate
 - study as families
 - teach constantly
 - teach how to think and how to defend the faith

- c) Thus says the LORD:
“Learn not the way of the nations,
nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens
because the nations are dismayed at them,
for the customs of the peoples are vanity.
(Jeremiah 10:2-3a ESV)

- Keep your children from worldliness.

- d) Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (1 Corinthians 15:33-34 ESV)
- e) Your children need you to protect them and train them: “Of themselves, young people are inclined to all evil. Besides, because of their inexperience they do not understand the wiles and the wickedness of the world and the devil and are far too weak to withstand the bad examples given them and the causes of offenses. Nor are they able to control themselves. If they are not trained, they are ruined and lost before they get their bearings. Therefore, they need and must have teachers and rulers to exhort, warn, rebuke and chastise them, to hold them constantly to the fear of God and to His commandments, and to ward off the Devil, the world, and the flesh.” - Martin Luther – Preface to the Book of Solomon 1524
- f) Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:12-17 ESV)

6. Will family devotions save your children?

- a) Jesus will save your children
- b) You will be giving them something wonderful and growing yourself at the same time. You will grow in wisdom, faith and knowledge of God hand in hand with your children
- c) House is a haven, an ark in the storm. A place of peace where the peace of God is shared.

7. Hope for families whose children have already left.

- Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)