

Serve The Lord Together

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What a blessing and benefit to be servants (especially the family) of the Most High God. What a blessing and treasure it is to serve God with your spouse and children or even your mother and father in the Lord. Just the idea alone should strengthen our faith and give us the resolve to do the will of God from the heart. We must strengthen our families, for if we can do this, then the local congregation will be enriched, encouraged, excited, and empowered to serve one another, and all with whom it comes in contact. Therefore, serving the Lord together will foster a strong family structure. It will guard against the failure of the family, and it will instruct us on how to endure the sufferings of life through obedient service to our local congregation and fellow man (Matt. 22.37-40).

Serving the Lord together requires godly men and fathers in the home. We need more men bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6.1-4). The family must see the man of the home (if he's in the home) serving the Lord in any capacity he can. He must be like Abraham, for the Lord knew he would command his house (Gen. 18.19). The family must be encouraged through example and education (Deut. 6.1-6) to see the beauty and necessity of being in the lives of others to the glory of God (Matt. 5.13-16). Furthermore, we must have more mothers who are willing to extend the hand of service and sacrifice in the sight of their children. Children must see their mothers serving the Lord as well. This is vitally important, because we're aware of the children spending more time with the mother, than the father.

Can you imagine the balance of a child who is being taught how to think in the home as it relates to serving the Lord and their fellowman? See, children have to be taught that serving their fellow church members or even strangers, is what the Lord desires and it is character building as well (Matt. 25.31-46). When the family visits a *shut-in* or someone in the hospital, or even a work of service, such as yard or house work, so much can be gleaned from that and will make a lasting impression upon all involved (Acts 10.38). How about fellowships and devotionals in the home with members of the church? As Paul told Timothy to be an example (make an imprint) on the lives of the brethren, so will our children be blessed to be a part of a family who hosts great spiritual events such as these. Consider the blessing of children seeing their parents fulfill what Paul told the Ephesian elders, "*it is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20.35).

Just a few observations worthy of our consideration: Consistently communicating with the family about the work of the Lord and the benefit of sharing, caring, and spending time with those of a like precious faith, is pertinent to spiritual development. We must put a stop to spending the majority of our time with things that are futile and of limited value (Rom.12.1-2). Things such as extra-curricular activities (sports; concerts; plays; etc) must be put in their proper perspective, so we do not get lost or lose focus on the main thing, that is, pleasing the Lord and serving our fellowman as a family. The family must keep in the forefront of its mind, that the work of the Lord and the stability

of the family is vitally important to the well being of the local congregation, and church at large.

In conclusion, let us do our part in studying the word of God together. Keep in mind, the family that prays earnestly together, will most likely stay together through the ups and downs of life. Leaders in the home must remind the family, “the way **UP** is **DOWN**” meaning, service is key to success (Matt. 20.27). Those who stare at the cross will not miss the congregation, nor community, and their commitment to serving together as a family, will glorify and honor our Great God in heaven.