

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups July 2nd 2006

Live a new life! – Family

Ephesians 6:1-4



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

“A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian...and most of all, his family ought to know.” D L Moodey

Object: to look at the family and its life together

Scope: to consider a) our nuclear families (parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, cousin but also b) the new family into which we have been reborn, our family in Christ.

1. All members of a family have equal status and equal rights although they may have different parts to play
Troubles arise in a family where one member is considered or favoured above the others
Example: story of Jacob who loved Joseph more than his other children.
So today we're trying to bridge the gaps between us and celebrate our unity as a family
2. Children often bear the consequences of their parents actions and sins (used to be syphilis, now Aids and HIV, abuse, alcoholism, selfishness, greed etc) See Exodus 34:7
3. So far, all negative but HOW DOES A FAMILY TRIUMPH?
A family triumphs when its members can tell each other what God has done and is doing and its members demonstrate consistent good living See Ex 10:1-29 Deut 6: 6-7
4. Family members should honour one another. If the Son of God honoured his earthly parents how much more should we honour our family members? Luke 2: 41-52
5. In Ephesians 6: 1-4 Paul assumed that the children would be present
God's commands apply to both parents and children
6. Our spiritual family
 - a) we're all related, whether we like it or not
 - b) membership of the family is marked by commitment
 - c) God's family is eternal



Witness: Questions to discuss

1. We don't choose our family members, so how can we love them?
2. What does being part of a family mean to you?
3. What does being part of a church family mean to you?
4. How can we become more of a family?
5. Do we listen enough to each other?
6. What hinders a family (both nuclear and spiritual) from being united?

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AT ST PAUL'S, ESPECIALLY FOR ANY WHO FEEL ON THE EDGE.