

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF THE FAITH FOR THE BETTERMENT/TO REFORM OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY LIFE

L. John Gangte
Principal

Introduction:

Our generation is better educated and most probably the richest in history but most of us have grown to embrace the fact that the material gain from our labour outweighs everything to the point of setting aside our godly responsibility to our society and family. The sphere of materialism is so strong that we have become disillusioned about the importance of moral and spiritual values. The original intention of building a strong Christian society and family foundation becomes secondary. Let us not ignore the signs of the times: we are in extreme danger of losing our Christian identity. We need help! The Christian family needs help! We have to discover how to reinforce relationships and the complementary roles of each member of the society and family. We have to use our God-given responsibility to build a strong foundation for our home and society on the rock-solid wisdom, love and understanding, promote the total development and preservation of the family and society, identify potential problems and overcome crisis, and learn, act, and teach social values and create strong Christian legacy. Unless we go back to the very foundation of a loving home and society ruled with wisdom and understanding, with Jesus Christ as the center, the increase of commercialism, peer pressure and the obligations imposed by society will press on. Every problem that caused the breaking down of the society resulted due to the negligence of the Christian Family principles. **Therefore we need to go back to the Christian family principles to reform our society.**

A family is a unit where everyone is an integral part of the whole. It must function in unison in order to achieve peace, harmony and understanding. A strong family relationship is not formed by chance. It is a deliberate objective where love rules at home, every member is committed to the relationship. Being a unit, a strong family spends time together and expresses appreciation where it is due. In difficult times, a strong family will bind even more strongly to solve problems placing Jesus Christ in the center to enable them to have a clear mind filled with the Holy Spirit.

The strength of a family begins with the relationship between the mother and the father. They must display the much needed core values, among others: love, commitment, unity, support and understanding, and become role models to their children. The following qualities are the foundation of a strong Christian family: Love, Commitment, Communication, Time Together, and Unity in Difficult times.

1. **Love:** One of the most important human virtues is love. Love begins by taking care of the closest ones within our family. Love must be expressed not just in words but also in deeds. For love to be manifested, it must first dwell within oneself, given away, then nurtured. One must feel the love in his heart, take the initiative to show love and give love. Remember that you can never give something that you do not have.

In this material world, many have equated giving gifts as an expression of love and affection. Presenting material gifts and other possessions is not real love. It is an excuse many have used to escape the vows of relationship with their spouse, with their children, with their friends, and above all, with God.

Love the lord your god with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Never forget these command that i am giving you today. Deut. 6:5-6

“With all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.....” It does not say, with all your money and wealth. The love that has been cultivated in this material world is very extravagant and expensive. The real essence of love takes a different meaning when affection and caring is substituted for material things. It is sad that this generation has come to know the value of material gifts as the ultimate expression of love. But it is not!

The love coming from the Holy Spirit is pure and simple and it is for the taking. It's free of charge! By virtue of being children of God, we are filled with love. It is possible to love in small things with great love.

It must become our goal to develop a foundation where love, peace, understanding, humility and respect reign in our homes. Challenges or crises will surely come our way. However, when love rules in the family, we will conquer. The experience will strengthen the family. The world around us may fall apart but a family built on the foundation of love will stand tall and strong. No amount of interruptions or problems could ever defeat a family that has placed Jesus Christ and the love he teaches in the center.

2. **Commitment:** The scripture says that what God has joined, let no man separate it and what God has created we are to preserve. The family is one of the first things that God has created and it is our duty to preserve its value and build it on a strong Christian foundation. In marriage when we pledge our commitment to support one another in good times and bad times, it also entails a commitment to raise our children and teach them the real value of our faith. We must keep our vows. The marriage commitment means that, next to God our family comes next. Families are the most important units in our society and must be preserved at all cost. If one expects to build a strong family, social obligations and unnecessary workload must be reduced in order to meet the demands of the family. Giving our family the leftover time will not result in a relationship befitting a strong Christian family. Building a strong Christian family foundation requires sacrifice, an unselfish attitude of placing the interest of our family, above ours.
3. **Communication:** Because of the demands of this material world, family communication has become a second class option in favour of those activities we have come to know as “more important” to keep up the false impression of ideal living conditions. Good communication in a family does not happen automatically. It

must be designed. A lot of family troubles can be avoided if there is open communication. Each and every member of the family must be willing to listen to the problem of the other members. Poor communication at home is often the major reason of marital conflicts and juvenile delinquencies. Take time to listen and let them know that you care. Make them aware that you are always there for them whenever they need you.

4. **Time together:** When you ask a strong Christian family to look back on the most memorable times of their lives, the most obvious answers are the ones spent together with their families. No matter how hectic their work schedule may be, parents must arrange, prioritize and find time for their family. Busy work schedules should not be used as an excuse to neglect this important responsibility. Parents should never put their career, community involvement, other extra-curricular activities, or even church responsibilities ahead of their family obligations. Next to God, our immediate family must rank highest in the list of priorities if we are to establish a credible relationship with our family, and above all, with our Lord Jesus.
5. **Unity in Difficult times:** All great Christian families, in one way or another go through crises or testing times. This enables them to develop the kind of family God wants them to be: to grow in love, understanding, humility and respect. Everything happens for a reason and it will serve us. A family in crisis that places Jesus Christ in the center of adversities will overcome and survive any storm that may come their way. We need to take time to see and understand the needs of our family and give support where it is due.

Conclusion:

A strong family results in a strong society and a strong nation. Likewise a broken family results in a broken society and a broken nation. If we allow Satan to destroy our families, he will successfully destroy us as a society and as a nation. We need to go back to the basics of life and learn what our God-ordained responsibilities are as a family member. Many people live in saved homes, where everyone professes to be a Christian, but their lives do not reflect the standard of God. We need to strive to have a Christian home, where everyone lives pious lives according to God's standard.