

# The Duty & Delight of Family Worship

Carriage Lane Presbyterian Church

Men's Breakfast, May 4th, 2013

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Definition of Family Worship: The daily gathering of a Christian household for the purpose of Bible reading, singing, and prayer.

\*Some Thoughts on the Demise of Family Worship

## I. Historical Foundations of Family Worship

*“God is to be worshipped everywhere, in spirit and truth, as, in private families daily, and in secret, each one by himself; so, more solemnly in the public assemblies, which are not carelessly or willfully to be neglected or forsaken, when God, by His Word or providence, calleth thereunto” (WCF (1647): XXI. 6).*

\*Three-fold worship (family, private, public)

## II. Biblical Foundations of Family Worship

- A. Covenant Headship: Acts 2:39
- B. Deuteronomy 6:6-9
- C. Ephesians 6:1-4
- D. II Timothy 1:5; 3:15

## III. Objections to Family Worship

From *Family Worship* by Joel Beeke

1. There is not explicit command in the Bible to have family worship.
2. Our family doesn't have time for family worship.
3. There is no regular time when all of us can be together.
4. Our family is too small.
5. Our family is too diverse for everyone to profit.
6. I'm not gifted to lead our family in worship.
7. Some of our family refuses to participate.
8. We don't want to make hypocrites of our unconverted children.
9. I can't carry a tune.

## IV. Benefits of Family Worship

- A. The Salvation of our children (Psalm 78:5-7)
- B. A Powerful Example to our Children

C. A Sense of Duty Fulfilled

D. A God-Centered Home

E. Practice for Public Worship

V. Family Worship: Getting Started

1. Bible Reading (Memorization)/ Catechism Questions
2. Singing of Psalms, Hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19).
3. Prayer (Confession of Sin, Thanksgiving, Praise, Supplication)

Practical hints on getting started today:

- A. Brevity
- B. Consistency
- C. Choose One Location and Time
- D. Unplug or turn off phones
- E. Joyful Reverence
- F. Repetition
- G. Use Bulletins

Example:

1. Sing Psalm or Hymn every day for a week. (5 minutes)
2. Read Bible (5 minutes). – choose verse to memorize
3. Catechism (5-10 minutes)
4. Pray for family, church, and the world. (5 minutes).

“A Christian Home” (TH #719)

Excellent Resources: Must Reads!!!

1. *A Neglected Grace: Family Worship in the Christian Home* by Jason Helopoulos
2. *Family Worship* by Joel R. Beeke
3. *Thoughts on Family Worship* by J.W. Alexander
4. *Family Worship: Biblical Basis, Historical Reality, Current Need* by Kerry Ptacek