

The Redemptive Family

Psalm 127

God's sovereign intention is that the church would be His family and become a family for all those He adopts from the nations. God's children learn how to be family through gospel-centered church community.

"Though I had experienced something of adoption through my relationship with my stepfather, I now had experienced something more—adoption into the family of God. The Father had grafted me into his family as the local church family fully embraced and welcomed us." Chase Johnson

"Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him! Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land." Psalm 68:4-6 (ESV)

"Adoption is the highest privilege that the gospel offers: higher even than justification... To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater." J.I. Packer, Knowing God

The church is a redemptive family called by God to teach those without family how to live as members of the family of God. It is where we see and experience the transforming power and the brotherly love of Christ.

I. The Foundational Principle of Gospel Family Life: Only God Can Build and Sustain a Godly, God-fearing Family. And He is!

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate." Psalm 127:1-5 (ESV)

Two Foundational Truths:

- a. Unless God builds a family, we labor in vain.
- b. Children are God's gift to us not our gift to God.

Psalms 127 is Solomon's anticipation of God building His house - the church.

God spoke to David about Solomon (and ultimately about Jesus):

"And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." 2 Samuel 7:11-13 (ESV)

Solomon prayed knowing there was a bigger house to come:

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place." 1 Kings 8:27-29 (ESV)

The writer to the Hebrews says that Jesus is building a far more glorious house:

"For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself... Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant...but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope." Hebrews 3:3-6 (ESV)

In Christ alone, we are made the family of God and in the church we are meant to learn how to live as God's family.

II. The Basic Priorities of Gospel Family Life: Be Passionately Protective and Radically Redemptive (2 Tim. 3:1-9)

Paul saw the church as family and Timothy, for example as his son:

"To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." 2 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus," 2 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)

Families are Foundationally Protective and Redemptive:

a. Protective from the enticement and entanglement of sin. (2 Tim. 3:5)

b. Redemptive from the deception and damage of sin. (2 Tim. 3:9)

The church family offers warnings of the perils of a godless culture and a welcome to the refugees who have felt, by God's mercy, the folly and the hopelessness of sin and perversion.

III. The Crucial Piece of Gospel Family Life: Modeling the Priorities of Discipleship in the Power of the Gospel. (2 Timothy 3:10-14)

Living as the people of God allows us to do more than just talk about our Christian faith. It allows others to see us walking out our Christian faith in the power of the Spirit. We model to the family of God the life of Christ.

"You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted..."

2 Tim. 3:10-12

What Gospel Parenting/Modeling Includes:

- Teaching
- Modeling
- Motivating/Inspiring
- Trusting
- Loving
- Persevering/ Suffering

"I remind my church regularly that we are not *like* a family; we *are* a family. We are brothers and sisters, adopted by the Father, through the blood of the Son (Eph. 1:5), and sealed by the Spirit (Rom. 8:16). Local churches, then, are eschatological communities—small, scattered

foretastes of the future. They rest in a future hope, work toward a future goal, and preview a future reality." Shaun Cross

IV. The Simplest and Highest Responsibility of the Family: To Pass On the Power and Sufficiency of the Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:14-16)

"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 3:14-17 (ESV)

You can do two things for the next generation:

- Leave a legacy of a life lived by faith in the Word of God.
- Leave a confidence in the Word to keep working in the lives of those we leave behind.

Study Questions:

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Psalm 127

1. **Psalm 127 begins, "Unless the Lord builds the house..."** What are some ways people try to build their lives or families apart from God? How can we intentionally depend on Him rather than our own efforts?
2. The sermon emphasized that **the church is God's family**, not simply an organization we attend. **What practical differences should that make in how we treat one another within the church?**
3. **Psalm 68:4-6 describes God as "Father of the fatherless" who "sets the lonely in families."** How has God's family—the church—encouraged, supported, or shaped your walk with Christ? How can we better welcome those who feel isolated or disconnected?

4. Paul warned Timothy about the influence of a godless culture (2 Timothy 3:1-9). **How can a church lovingly protect one another from the deception of sin while still extending grace to those who are struggling?**
5. In **2 Timothy 3:10-12**, Timothy learned as much from Paul's **life** as from his teaching. **Which qualities listed in Paul's example (teaching, conduct, faith, patience, love, perseverance, suffering) do you most need to grow in, and why?**
6. The sermon noted that discipleship involves **teaching, modeling, motivating, trusting, loving, and persevering**. Which of these has had the greatest impact on your own spiritual growth, and how can you begin investing in someone else in that same way?
7. **2 Timothy 3:14-17 teaches that Scripture is sufficient to equip God's people for every good work**. What role has God's Word played in shaping your faith, and what practical habits help you remain rooted in it?
8. The sermon concluded by encouraging us to leave **both a legacy of faith and confidence in God's Word for the next generation**. What is one intentional step you can take this week to strengthen someone else's faith—whether a child, grandchild, friend, neighbor, or fellow believer?