Four E's in Ephesians: #4 Encouraging Godly Families - Eph 5:1-6:9

A Sermon by Nate Wilson for Christ the Redeemer Church, Manhattan, KS, 28 Sept 2008

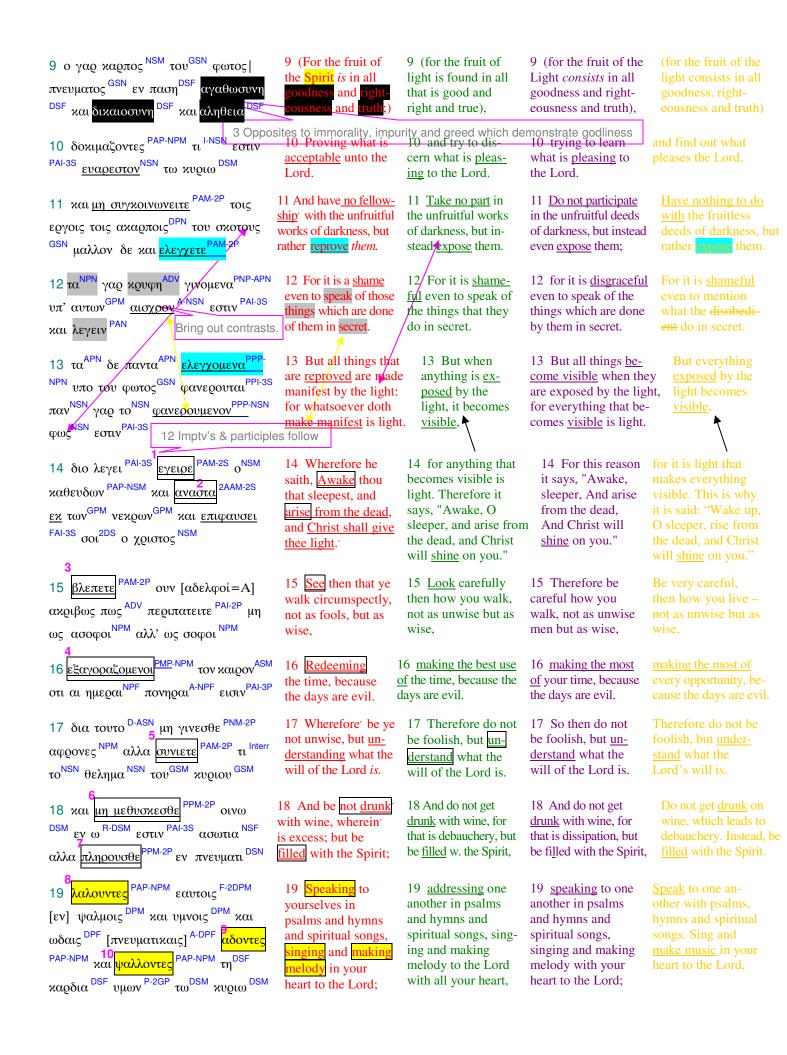
(Greek text & paring from Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & Hort, published by E. Sword, Ped text & Paring From Westcott & P



children of light:

children of light

children of Light



	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{11} \\ \textbf{20} \underline{\text{eucaristountes}} \\ \textbf{pap-npm} \text{pantstant} \\ \textbf{uper pantsun} \\ \textbf{a-gpn} \text{en onomati} \\ \textbf{dsn} \textbf{tou} \\ \textbf{nuclou} \\ \textbf{gsm} \text{hmwn} \\ \textbf{p-1GP} \textbf{ihson} \\ \textbf{gristou} \\ \textbf{gsm} \textbf{tw} \theta \textbf{ew} \\ \textbf{dsn} \textbf{natring} \\ \textbf{dsn} \end{array}$	20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;	20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,	20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;	always giving thanks to God the Father for every- thing, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
	21 υποτασσομενου PPP-NPM αλληλοις DPM εν φοβω DSM χριστου GSM	21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.	21 <u>submitting</u> to one another out of reverence for Christ.	21 and <u>be subject</u> to one another in the fear of Christ.	Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
•	22 αι $\frac{\text{gen}}{\text{gen}}$ τοις ιδιοις $\frac{\text{DPM}}{\text{gen}}$ ανδρασιν $\frac{\text{DPM}}{\text{gen}}$ [υποτασσεσθε] ως $\frac{\text{ADV}}{\text{Tω}}$ τω χυριω $\frac{\text{DSM}}{\text{gen}}$	22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.	22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.	22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.	Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.
	23 oti and $^{\rm NSM}$ estin $^{\rm PAI-3S}$ peralh $^{\rm NSF}$ the $^{\rm GSF}$ ginaisos $^{\rm GSF}$ we hai o coitos $^{\rm NSM}$ regalh $^{\rm NSF}$ the $^{\rm GSF}$ explosing $^{\rm GSF}$ autos $^{\rm P-NSM}$ swihr swift tou $^{\rm GSN}$ swihatos $^{\rm GSN}$	23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.	23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.	23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself <i>being</i> the Savior of the body.	For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.
	24 αλλα ως ADV η NSF εκκλησια NSF υποτασσεται $^{PPI-3S}$ τω DSM χριστω DSM ουτως ADV και αι NPF γυναικες NPF τοις DPM ανδρασιν DPM $\underline{\text{εν παντι}}$ $^{A-DSN}$	24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so <i>let</i> the wives <i>be</i> to their own husbands <u>in</u> every thing.	24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.	24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives <i>ought to be</i> to their husbands in everything.	Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their hus- bands in everything.
	$25 \text{ oi}^{\text{NPM}} \frac{\text{andre}}{\text{andre}}^{\text{NPM}} \frac{\text{anate}}{\text{anate}}^{\text{PAM-2P}} \text{ tag}$ givalnas $^{\text{APF}} \frac{\text{kahws}^{\text{ADV}}}{\text{kal o colotos}}^{\text{NSM}}$ hyaphoen $^{\text{AAl-3S}} \text{thn}^{\text{ASF}} \text{ enchosize}^{\text{ASF}} \text{ nate}$ eauton $^{\text{F-3ASM}} \text{pagedwken}^{\text{AAl-3S}} \text{ uper authors}^{\text{AAl-3S}}$	love your wive even as Christ also loved the	es, your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for he	your wives, just a Christ also loved the church and ga	your wives, just a Christ loved the church and gave
		26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,	26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,	26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,	to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,
	$27 \text{ in a passthan ansset}^{\text{AAS-3S}} \text{ autos}^{\text{P-NSM}}$ eautw f-3DSM endoxon a-ASF thn asset enalhasian asf im ecousan pap-asf standardam multiple production and asset in tandardam tonus and almost almost answer and almost answer answer and almost and almost and almost answer and almost answer and almost and almost answer and almost and almost answer and almost answer and almost answer and almost a	27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be <u>holy</u> and without <u>blemish</u> .	27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.	27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and <u>blameless</u> .	and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and <u>blameless</u> .

- 28 outws oreilousing [mai] of andres $^{\rm NPM}$ agapan tas $^{\rm APF}$ eautwn $^{\rm 3GPM}$ gunaimas $^{\rm APF}$ we ta $^{\rm APN}$ eautwn $^{\rm 3GPM}$ swhata $^{\rm APN}$ o agapang $^{\rm APP}$ number the eauton $^{\rm 3GSM}$ gunaima $^{\rm ASF}$ eauton $^{\rm 3GSM}$ gunaima $^{\rm ASF}$ eauton $^{\rm 3GSM}$ agapa $^{\rm PAI-3S}$
- 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
- 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;
- In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

- 29 oudeis $^{A-NSM-N}$ yar pote PRT thy ASF εαυτου 3GSM σαρκα ASF εμισησεν $^{AAI-3S}$ αλλα επτοεφει $^{\text{PAI-3S}}$ και θαλπει $^{\text{PAI-3S}}$ αυτην P-ASF καθως και ο χριστος NSM $\text{thn}^{\mathsf{ASF}} \, \, \text{ennlhoian}^{\, \mathsf{ASF}}$
- 30 oti melh $^{\rm NPN}$ esmen $^{\rm PAI-1P}$ tou $^{\rm GSN}$ σωματος GSN αυτου GSM [εκ τῆς σαρκος αυτου και εκ των όστέων αυτου - Byz]
- 31 αντι τουτου ^{D-GSN} <u>καταλειψει</u> FAI-3S ανθρωπος $^{\text{NSM}}$ [τον] $^{\text{ASM}}$ πατερα $^{\text{ASM}}$ και [την] $^{\text{ASF}}$ μητερα ASF και προσκολληθησεται FPI-3S προς $\mathsf{thn}^{\mathsf{ASF}} \; \mathsf{cunaica} \; \mathsf{asf} \; \; \mathsf{autou} \; \mathsf{GSM} \; \; \mathsf{cai} \; \mathsf{esontai} \; \mathsf{FDI-3P}$ οι^{NPM} δυο ^{NUI} εις σαρχα ^{ASF} μιαν ^{ASF}
- $32 \text{ to}^{\text{NSN}}$ musthfion $^{\text{NSN}}$ touto $^{\text{D-NSN}}$ $\mbox{mega}^{\mbox{A-NSN}}$ estin $^{\mbox{PAI-3S}}$ ega $^{\mbox{P-1NS}}$ $\delta\epsilon$ λεγω PAI-1S εις χριστον ASM και [εις] $\text{thn}^{\mathsf{ASF}} \, \text{enclhoian}^{\,\mathsf{ASF}}$
- 33 ply $^{\text{ADV}}$ kai umeis $^{\text{P-2NP}}$ oi $^{\text{NPM}}$ kah $\text{ena} \, \text{asm} \, \text{enastos} \, \text{nsm} \, \text{thy} \, \text{asf} \, \text{eautou} \, \text{3Gsm}$ γυναικα $^{\mathsf{ASF}}$ ουτως $^{\mathsf{ADV}}$ $\underline{\alpha \gamma \alpha \pi \alpha \tau \omega}$ $^{\mathsf{PAM-3S}}$ ως ADV εαυτον F-3ASM η NSF δε γυνη NSF ινα φοβηται PNS-3S τον ASM ανδρα ASM

 $2\,\underline{\tau\iota\mu\alpha}^{\mathsf{PAM-2S}}\,\,\tauov^{\mathsf{ASM}}\,\,\pi\alpha\tau\epsilon\varrho\alpha^{\mathsf{ASM}}\,\sigmaov^{\mathsf{2GS}}$

και την $^{\text{ASF}}$ μητερα $^{\text{ASF}}$ ητις $^{\text{R-NSF}}$ εστιν $^{\text{PAI}}$

εντολη^{NSF} πρωτη^{NSF} εν επαγγελια^{DSF}

3 ινα ευ^{ADV} σοι^{2DS} γενηται^{ADS-3S} και

εση FDI-2S μαχροχρονιος NSM επι της γης GSF

4 και οι^{NPM} πατερες NPM μη παρ-

οργιζετε PAM-2P τα τεχνα APN υμων 2GP

παιδεια DSF και νουθεσια DSF κυριου GSM

αλλα εκτρεφετε $^{PAM-2P}$ αυτα APN εν

- 29 For no man ever vet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
 - 30 For we are members of his body, [of his flesh, and of his bones]. (Gen 2:23)
 - 31 For this cause' shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.
- 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
- 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.
- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- 2 Honor thy father ment with promise;
- 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on
- 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,
 - 30 because we are members of his
 - 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become 1 flesh."
- 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the the church. church.
- 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.
- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),
- 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."
- 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,
 - 30 because we are members of His body.
- for we are mem-

his wife, and the

mystery – but I am

However, each

must love his wife

self, and the wife

After all, no one

and cares for it, just

- 31 FOR THIS REA-SON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL <u>BE JOINED</u> TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.
- 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and
- 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.
 - Children, obey your for this is right.
 - and mother" which mandment with a
 - "that it may go well with you and that

- 1 τα $\frac{1}{1}$ τα $\frac{1}{1}$ τα $\frac{1}{1}$ τοις γονευσιν^{DPM} υμων^{2GP} [εν κυριω<math>*V] DSM τουτο $^{D-NSN}$ γαρ εστιν $^{PAI-3S}$ δικαιον NSN
 - and mother; which is the first command-
 - the earth.

- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MO-THER (which is the first commandment with a promise),
- 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.
- 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- Fathers, do not exas-

- 5 οι δουλοι $^{\text{NPM}}$ $\underline{\text{υπαχουετε}}^{\text{PAM-2P}}$ τοις $^{\text{DPM}}$ χατα σαρχα $^{\text{ASF}}$ χυριοις $^{\text{DPM}}$ μετα $\underline{\text{φοβου}}^{\text{GSM}}$ χαι $\underline{\text{τρομου}}^{\text{GSM}}$ εν απλοτητι $^{\text{DSF}}$ της $^{\text{GSF}}$ χαρδιας $^{\text{GSF}}$ υμων $^{\text{2GP}}$ $\underline{\text{ως τω χριστω}}^{\text{DSM}}$
- 6 μη κατ' οφθαλμοδουλιαν $^{\mathsf{ASF}}$ ως ανθρωπαρεσκοι $^{\mathsf{NPM}}$ αλλ' <u>ως δουλοι $^{\mathsf{NPM}}$ χριστου $^{\mathsf{GSM}}$ ποιουντες $^{\mathsf{PAP-NPM}}$ το $^{\mathsf{ASN}}$ θελημα $^{\mathsf{ASN}}$ του θεου $^{\mathsf{GSM}}$ <u>εκ</u> ψυχης $^{\mathsf{GSF}}$ </u>
- 7 μετ' $\frac{\text{eunolac}}{\text{ost}}$ δουλευοντες $\frac{\text{PAP-NPM}}{\text{ost}}$ waι ουχ ανθρωποις $\frac{\text{DPM}}{\text{ost}}$
- 8 ειδοτες $^{\text{RAP-NPM}}$ στι εκαστος $^{\text{NSM}}$ εαν τι $^{\text{X}}$ ποιηση $^{\text{AAS-3S}}$ αγαθον $^{\text{ASN}}$ τουτο $^{\text{D-ASN}}$ κομισεται $^{\text{FDI-3S}}$ παρα κυριου $^{\text{GSM}}$ ειτε $^{\text{CNJ}}$ δουλος $^{\text{NSM}}$ ειτε ελευθερος $^{\text{NSM}}$
- 9 και οι κυριοι $^{\text{NPM}}$ τα αυτα $^{\text{APN}}$ ποιειτε $^{\text{PAM-}}$ προς αυτους $^{\text{APM}}$ ανιεντες $^{\text{PAP-NPM}}$ την απειλην $^{\text{ASF}}$ ειδοτες $^{\text{RAP-NPM}}$ οτι και αυτων $^{\text{GPM}}$ και υμων $^{\text{2GP}}$ ο κυριος $^{\text{NSM}}$ εστιν $^{\text{PAI-3S}}$ εν ουρανοις $^{\text{DPM}}$ και προσωπολημψια $^{\text{NSF}}$ ουκ εστιν $^{\text{PAI-3S}}$ παρ' αυτω $^{\text{DSM}}$
- 10 του λοιπου $^{\text{GSN}}$ $\underline{\text{ενδυναμουσθε}}^{\text{PPM-}}$ εν κυριω $^{\text{DSM}}$ και εν τω $^{\text{DSN}}$ κρατει $^{\text{DSN}}$ της $^{\text{GSF}}$ ισχυος $^{\text{GSF}}$ αυτου $^{\text{GSM}}$

- 5 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ:
 - 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the <u>servants of Christ</u>, doing the will of God <u>from the heart</u>;
 - 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:
 - 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.
 - 9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.
 - 10 Finally, my brethren, <u>be strong</u> in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

- 5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ,
- 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,
 - 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,
 - 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.
- 9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
- 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

- 5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;
- 6 not by way of eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as <u>slaves of Christ</u>, doing the will of God from the heart.
- 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,
- 8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.
- 9 And masters, do
 the same things to
 them, and give up
 threatening, knowing that both their
 is Master and yours is
 in heaven, and there
 ity is no partiality with
 Him.
 - 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

- Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.
- Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.
 - Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men
 - because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free
 - And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

- > Spheres of authority
 - o (Self)
 - o Family (Biblically includes business) Rod
 - o Church Keys
 - State Sword
- Must not encroach on another sphere unless violations reach your sphere (Church does not have authority to feed your wife or raise your children, nor does State.)
- Pastor/teacher is to equip heads of households with the Bible so you can equip your households

Directory for Family-Worship

ASSEMBLY AT EDINBURGH, Aug 24, 1647, Sess. 10.

ACT for observing the Directions of the general assembly for secret and private Worship, and mutual Edification; and censuring such as neglect Family-worship.

THE General Assembly, after mature deliberation, doth approve the following Rules and Directions for cherishing piety, and preventing division and schism; and doth appoint ministers and ruling elders in each congregation to take special care that these Directions be observed and followed; as likewise, that presbyteries and provincial synods enquire and make trial whether the said Directions be duly observed in their bounds; and to reprove or censure (according to the quality of the offence), such as shall be found to be reprovable or censurable therein. And, to the end that these directions may not be rendered ineffectual and unprofitable among some, through the usual neglect of the very substance of the duty of Familyworship, the Assembly doth further require and appoint ministers and ruling elders to make diligent search and enquiry, in the congregations committed to their charge respectively, whether there be among them any family or families which use to neglect this necessary duty; and if any such family be found, the head of the family is to be first adminished privately to amend his fault; and, in case of his continuing therein, he is to be gravely and sadly reproved by the session; after which reproof, if he be found still to neglect Family-worship, let him be, for his obstinacy in such an offence, suspended and debarred from the Lord's supper, as being justly esteemed unworthy to communicate therein, till he amend.

DIRECTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CONCERNING SECRET AND PRIVATE WORSHIP, AND MUTUAL EDIFICATION; FOR CHERISHING PIETY, FOR MAINTAINING UNITY, AND AVOIDING SCHISM AND DIVISION.

BESIDES the publick worship in congregations, mercifully established in this land in great purity, it is expedient and necessary that secret worship of each person alone, and private worship of families, be pressed and set up; that, with national reformation, the profession and power of godliness, both personal and domestick, be advanced.

- I. And first, for secret worship, it is most necessary, that every one apart, and by themselves, be given to prayer and meditation, the unspeakable benefit whereof is best known to them who are most exercised therein; this being the mean whereby, in a special way, communion with God is entertained, and right preparation for all other duties obtained: and therefore it becometh not only pastors, within their several charges, to press persons of all sorts to perform this duty morning and evening, and at other occasions; but also it is incumbent to the head of every family to have a care, that both themselves, and all within their charge, be daily diligent herein.
- II. The ordinary duties comprehended under the exercise of piety which should be in families, when they are convened to that effect, are these: First, Prayer and praises performed with a special reference, as well to the publick condition of the kirk of God and this kingdom, as to the present case of the family, and every member thereof. Next, Reading of the scriptures, with catechising in a plain way, that the understandings of the simpler may be the better enabled to profit under the publick ordinances,

and they made more capable to understand the scriptures when they are read; together with godly conferences tending to the edification of all the members in the most holy faith: as also, admonition and rebuke, upon just reasons, from those who have authority in the family.

III. As the charge and office of interpreting the holy scriptures is a part of the ministerial calling, which none (however otherwise qualified) should take upon him in any place, but he that is duly called thereunto by God and his kirk; so in every family where there is any that can read, the holy scriptures should be read ordinarily to the family; and it is commendable, that thereafter they confer, and by way of conference make some good use of what hath been read and heard. As, for example, if any sin be reproved in the word read, use may be made thereof to make all the family circumspect and watchful against the same; or if any judgment be threatened, or mentioned to have been inflicted, in that portion of scripture which is read, use may be made to make all the family fear lest the same or a worse judgment befall them, unless they beware of the sin that procured it: and, finally, if any duty be required, or comfort held forth in a promise, use may be made to stir up themselves to employ Christ for strength to enable them for doing the commanded duty, and to apply the offered comfort. In all which the master of the family is to have the chief hand; and any member of the family may propone a question or doubt for resolution.

IV. The head of the family is to take care that none of the family withdraw himself from any part of family-worship: and, seeing the ordinary performance of all the parts of family-worship belongeth properly to the head of the family, the minister is to stir up such as are lazy, and train up such as are weak, to a fitness to these exercises; it being always free to persons of quality to entertain one approved by the presbytery for performing family-exercise. And in other families, where the head of the family is unfit, that another, constantly residing in the family, approved by the minister and session, may be employed in that service, wherein the minister and session are to be countable to the presbytery. And if a minister, by divine Providence, be brought to any family, it is requisite that at no time he convene a part of the family for worship, secluding the rest, except in singular cases especially concerning these parties, which (in Christian prudence) need not, or ought not, to be imparted to others.

- V. Let no idler, who hath no particular calling, or vagrant person under pretence of a calling, be suffered to perform worship in families, to or for the same; seeing persons tainted with errors, or aiming at division, may be ready (after that manner) to creep into houses, and lead captive silly and unstable souls.
- VI. At family-worship, a special care is to be had that each family keep by themselves; neither requiring, inviting, nor admitting persons from divers families, unless it be those who are lodged with them, or at meals, or otherwise with them upon some lawful occasion.
- VII. Whatsoever have been the effects and fruits of meetings of persons of divers families in the times of corruption or trouble, (in which cases many things are commendable, which otherwise are not tolerable,) yet, when God hath blessed us with peace and purity of the gospel, such meetings of persons of divers families (except in cases mentioned in these Directions) are to be disapproved, as tending to the hinderance of the religious exercise of each family by itself, to the prejudice of the publick ministry, to the rending of the families of particular congregations, and (in progress of time) of the whole kirk. Besides many offences which may come thereby, to the hardening of the hearts of carnal men, and grief of the godly.

VIII. On the Lord's day, after every one of the family apart, and the whole family together, have sought the Lord (in whose hands the preparation of men's hearts are) to fit them for the publick worship, and to bless to them the publick ordinances, the master of the family ought to take care that all within his charge repair to the publick worship, that he and they may join with the rest of the congregation: and the publick worship being finished, after prayer, he should take an account what they have heard; and thereafter, to spend the rest of the time which they may spare in catechising, and in spiritual conferences upon the word of God: or else (going apart) they ought to apply themselves to reading, meditation, and secret prayer, that they may confirm and increase their communion with God: that so the profit which they found in the publick ordinances may be cherished and promoved, and they more edified unto eternal life.

IX. So many as can conceive prayer, ought to make use of that gift of God; albeit those who are rude and weaker may begin at a set form of prayer, but so as they be not sluggish in stirring up in themselves (according to their daily necessities) the spirit of prayer, which is given to all the children of God in some measure: to which effect, they ought to be more fervent and frequent in secret prayer to God, for enabling of their hearts to conceive, and their tongues to express, convenient desires to God for their family. And, in the meantime, for their greater encouragement, let these materials of prayer be meditated upon, and made use of, as followeth.

"Let them confess to God how unworthy they are to come in his presence, and how unfit to worship his Majesty; and therefore earnestly ask of God the spirit of prayer.

"They are to confess their sins, and the sins of the family; accusing, judging, and condemning themselves for them, till they bring their souls to some measure of true humiliation.

"They are to pour out their souls to God, in the name of Christ, by the Spirit, for forgiveness of sins; for grace to repent, to believe, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly; and that they may serve God with joy and delight, walking before him.

"They are to give thanks to God for his many mercies to his people, and to themselves, and especially for his love in Christ, and for the light of the gospel.

"They are to pray for such particular benefits, spiritual and temporal, as they stand in need of for the time, (whether it be morning or evening,) as anent health or sickness, prosperity or adversity.

"They ought to pray for the kirk of Christ in general, for all the reformed kirks, and for this kirk in particular, and for all that suffer for the name of Christ; for all our superiors, the king's majesty, the queen, and their children; for the magistrates, ministers, and whole body of the congregation whereof they are members, as well for their neighbours absent in their lawful affairs, as for those that are at home.

"The prayer may be closed with an earnest desire that God may be glorified in the coming of the kingdom of his Son, and in doing of his will, and with assurance that themselves are accepted, and what they have asked according to his will shall be done."

X. These exercises ought to be performed in great sincerity, without delay, laying aside all exercises of worldly business or hinderances, not withstanding the mockings of atheists and profane men; in respect of the great mercies of God to this land, and of his severe corrections wherewith lately he hath exercised us. And, to this effect, persons of eminency (and all elders of the

kirk) not only ought to stir up themselves and families to diligence herein, but also to concur effectually, that in all other families, where they have power and charge, the said exercises be conscionably performed.

XI. Besides the ordinary duties in families, which are above mentioned, extraordinary duties, both of humiliation and thanksgiving, are to be carefully performed in families, when the Lord, by extraordinary occasions, (private or publick,) calleth for them.

XII. Seeing the word of God requireth that we should consider one another, to provoke unto love and good works; therefore, at all times, and specially in this time, wherein profanity abounds, and mockers, walking after their own lusts, think it strange that others run not with them to the same excess of riot; every member of this kirk ought to stir up themselves, and one another, to the duties of mutual edification, by instruction, admonition, rebuke; exhorting one another to manifest the grace of God in denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and in living godly, soberly and righteously in this present world; by comforting the feeble-minded, and praying with or for one another. Which duties respectively are to be performed upon special occasions offered by Divine Providence; as, namely, when under any calamity, cross, or great difficulty, counsel or comfort is sought; or when an offender is to be reclaimed by private admonition, and if that be not effectual, by joining one or two more in the admonition, according to the rule of Christ, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

XIII. And, because it is not given to every one to speak a word in season to a wearied or distressed conscience, it is expedient, that a person (in that case,) finding no ease, after the use of all ordinary means, private and publick, have their address to their own pastor, or some experienced Christian: but if the person troubled in conscience be of that condition, or of that sex, that discretion, modesty, or fear of scandal, requireth a godly, grave, and secret friend to be present with them in their said address, it is expedient that such a friend be present.

XIV. When persons of divers families are brought together by Divine Providence, being abroad upon their particular vocations, or any necessary occasions; as they would have the Lord their God with them whithersoever they go, they ought to walk with God, and not neglect the duties of prayer and thanksgiving, but take care that the same be performed by such as the company shall judge fittest. And that they likewise take heed that no corrupt communication proceed out of their mouths, but that which is good, to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers.

The drift and scope of all these Directions is no other, but that, upon the one part, the power and practice of godliness, amongst all the ministers and members of this kirk, according to their several places and vocations, may be cherished and advanced, and all impiety and mocking of religious exercises suppressed: and, upon the other part, that, under the name and pretext of religious exercises, no such meetings or practices be allowed, as are apt to breed error, scandal, schism, contempt, or misregard of the publick ordinances and ministers, or neglect of the duties of particular callings, or such other evils as are the works, not of the Spirit, but of the flesh, and are contrary to truth and peace.

In the Bible, worship assemblies included children along with the adults:

- 2 Chronicles 20:4,13: Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord and all Judah stood before the Lord with their little ones, their wives and their children.
- Ezra 10 Now when Ezra had prayed and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore.
- Joel 2:15-17 Blow a trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, even the sucklings...
- Deut. 31:11-13 when all Israel is come to appear before Jehovah thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. (12) Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones, and thy sojourner that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear Jehovah your God, and observe to do all the words of this law; (13) and that their children, who have not known, may hear, and learn to fear Jehovah your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over the Jordan to possess it.
- Mat 21:15-16 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children that were crying in the temple and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were moved with indignation, (16) and said unto him, Hearest thou what these are saying? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea: did ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou has perfected praise?

Therefore we believe we should worship God together with our children and we try to organize worship and church activities so that all ages can participate and learn from the Bible together.

- 1. We encourage you to try keeping your children with you for at least part of the worship service so they can begin learning to worship in a mature way.
- 2. Don't worry if your child is making a little bit of noise or if you have to come in and out of the room to deal with your child. It's not bothering us; most of us have been through the same thing! However, if your child reaches a point of distracting other people around you, please take the child from the room yourself or bring your child to the back of the room so our child care volunteer can take your child from the room.
- 3. Child care is available on Sunday mornings as a <u>training ground</u> to prepare children to join the congregation in worship. Child care volunteers will help your child sit still and listen to bits of the service over the intercom, draw a picture with crayons about the theme of the worship service, memorize some of the songs and liturgy of our church, and walk around as necessary.
- 4. We encourage you to "practice church" throughout the week sing, pray, and read the Bible or listen to recordings of sermons.
- 5. Kid's box with books and crayons.