

"Father's Day 2018"

Psalm 127

"Building a Family"

**Introduction:** Today has been set aside as a day to celebrate our fathers and so today we are going to look at a message that is going to focus upon fathers. Within the family the husband is been given the responsibility of being the spiritual leader. With this position comes a great amount of responsibility and accountability.

**Ephesians 5:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

<sup>23</sup> *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

<sup>24</sup> *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

Along with this position comes the responsibility of raising our children in the admonition of the Lord.

**Ephesians 6:4**

<sup>4</sup> *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

Let me define some words here so we can better understand this verse.

**Nurture** - *the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body.*

**Admonition** - *To rebuke or warn.*

As fathers it is our responsibility to train the minds and the morals of our children and to warn and rebuke them when they drift away from where they should be.

As dads we have much influence upon our children and the lives they will live long after we are gone.

Today I want to take you through Psalm 127 in which Solomon had much to say concerning the family. In this Psalm Solomon likens a family to a city and a house. When I began to study this Psalm I had to ask, "Why does Solomon liken the family to a city?" Let me just say that the city which Solomon had in mind was Jerusalem. This city was the heart of the nation. It was in the city that the Temple existed where they met with God. It was in the city that Israel was prepared to step out into the world. It was in the city where God was worshipped. The nation was only as strong as the city of Jerusalem.

There are many parallels here with the family. It is in the family where children are to be trained and educated to step out into the world around them. It is in the family where children are to learn to worship God. Just as the nation was only as strong as the city of Jerusalem so our nation today is only as strong as the family. The family today is the heart of the nation.

This is exactly why we see Satan launching so many attacks upon the family. The more he can weaken the family the weaker the nation will become. Let us now look at what Solomon has to say concerning the family.

I. **The Need for God's Intervention**

This will be seen in 2 ways within this Psalm.

1. **For Building**

**Notice Psalm 127:1a**

Solomon tells us that if God does not build the house they labor in vain that build it. What does it mean to BUILD a family? When we look at the building of a house we can get a very good idea of what Solomon has in mind here. In order to have a house that will weather the storms and provide the protection that is needed for a family there are several things that need to be done.

1. **It must have a strong foundation.**

The family must be built upon Faith in Jesus Christ and His Word.

**Hebrews 11:1**

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

**1 Corinthians 3:9-11**

*<sup>9</sup> For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

<sup>10</sup> *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*

<sup>11</sup> *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

**2. It must be anchored to the foundation.**

Our families must be taught to hold tightly to God during the raging storms of life.

**Psalm 61:1-4**

*Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.*

<sup>2</sup> *From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

<sup>3</sup> *For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.*

<sup>4</sup> *I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.*

**3. It must be built to code.**

There are codes for building houses and they must be followed or there will be fines and the project will be shut down.

When building a family there are guidelines within the Word of God that must be followed.

- a. **The family must consist of a husband and a wife. Not two wives or two husbands.**

**Genesis 2:24**

<sup>24</sup> *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

- b. **The man and the woman shall be joined together in Holy Marriage.**

God will have nothing to do with two people living together. They are to be married and when they are they enter a 3-way covenant. It is the Lord, the man and the wife.

- c. **The husband and the wife must be faithful to God and to one another.**

**Hebrews 13:4**

<sup>4</sup> *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

4. **It must be built with good quality material.**

When it comes to building a house that will last and endure the storms it must be built from good quality materials which can be very costly.

When it comes to building a family the very same thing is true. To build a family that is strong it will take great sacrifice in the life of the Dad. It will be a sacrifice of his TIME, FINANCES, HOBBIES and PLEASURES OF LIFE.

**1 Corinthians 3:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

<sup>10</sup> *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*

<sup>11</sup> *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

<sup>12</sup> **Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble:**

When it comes to serving the Lord, there are different materials to build with and the same is also true when building a family. The family that is built using that which is precious will endure and it will be a family that will have an impact within this world.

5. **For a house to be a home it must have peace unity within the walls.**

**Colossians 3:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, and **be not bitter against them.***

<sup>20</sup> *Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.*

<sup>21</sup> *Fathers, **provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.***

**Listen to the words of Bruce concerning the father and the children:**

*"Parents, and specially fathers, are urged not to irritate their children by being so unreasonable in their demands that their children lose heart and come to think that it is useless trying to please their parents."*

In all of this we see what it is to build a family.

Notice Psalm 127:1a again.

God must be the center of the family for if He is not the labor that is done is all for nothing. The idea here is to build a family that will make a difference by promoting the Kingdom of our Lord.

There are many families that are built without the Lord but they make no spiritual impact upon this world. They may be widely known and even rise to great WORLDLY heights. But they are only a vapor and eventually they pass leaving not spiritual footprint in this world.

**James 4:13-14**

*<sup>13</sup> Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

*<sup>14</sup> Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

So, God's intervention is needed for the building and next we see that His intervention is need for:

## 2. For Protection

**Notice Psalm 127:1b**

Solomon tells us that if the Lord does not keep the city the watchman spends his time keeping watching for nothing. The city of Jerusalem had to be under the watchful eye of the Lord if those inside were going to be safe. We see an example of this in the book of Daniel.

**Daniel 5:1-6, 25-30**

*Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.*

*<sup>2</sup> Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.*

*<sup>3</sup> Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.*

*<sup>4</sup> They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.*

<sup>5</sup> *In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.*

<sup>6</sup> *Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.*

<sup>25</sup> *And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.*

<sup>26</sup> *This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.*

<sup>27</sup> *TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.*

<sup>28</sup> *PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*

<sup>29</sup> *Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.*

<sup>30</sup> *In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.*

In the beginning of this message I told you that the family today is under attack. It is a spiritual attack and for that reason the family must be protected by God.

### **Ephesians 6:12**

<sup>12</sup> *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

It is Satan and his demons who desired to destroy your family. Our families must be dedicated to God and we must lean upon Him for wisdom and protection.

### **Proverbs 3:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

<sup>6</sup> *In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

<sup>7</sup> *Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

Notice Psalm 127:2

To try to build a family without being surrendered to God is nothing but vanity. A man can rise early and work until late but if God is not the center of the family the man will only eat the bread of sorrows. Let me show you what the people of Haggai's day experienced.

**Haggai 1:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

<sup>6</sup> Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

<sup>7</sup> Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

<sup>8</sup> Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

II. The Children

**Notice Psalm 127:3**

The word "heritage" means "possession". Children belong to the Lord and they are entrusted to us and it is our responsibility to teach and to train them. This is something that all of us will held accountable for.

**Notice Psalm 127:4**

Here the children are compared to arrows. Arrows need to be: **Sharpened, Straightened.** They then become a **Defense**

The same is true of children. When they are trained in God's Word they become a great defense for the family for they are not easily deceived.

**Notice 127:5**

The gate was where the affairs of the city were taken care of. The children who are trained in the ways of God will be able to stand in the face of any situation and make wise choices.

**Conclusion:** The time a father invests in training his children in the Word of God will never be a waste.