

“The Faith Driven Family and the Great Commission”

Sermon for 21 June 2015

Texts:

I met Voddie Baucham, Jr. at Parkside Church several years back. I love his passion for “walk away” teens and appreciate his home centered approach to “biblical discipleship.” I hear the urgency and applaud his boldness: “something must be done.” However, I am not entirely on board with “family driven church” because the Great Commission is not about social reform, saving biblical marriage or, specifically, restructuring the family. Jesus did not lay down His life to redeem social institutions, family practice or to make me a better person; rather He died so that my soul, redeemed and forgiven, might have eternal life—to worship God now and forever. Saving the lost is my mission, worshipping God is my purpose.

To pass on the faith, you first must have faith. Apart from saving faith, from being born again, you are not a disciple and if you are not a disciple, you can hardly make disciples of anyone else anywhere—in public, or in the home. The born-again Christian operates with various church and family settings. And a changed heart alters practice in a godly, Word centered direction but it doesn’t necessarily yield implementation plans—although I suppose it could.

If faith drives the family, it works. It is a matter of first things first. Family life is distorted these days: the biblical norm was multigenerational families, the household was not nuclear. It was layered, and diverse. Our culture lifts up independence and individualism. The bible lifts up interdependence and corporate living. Decidedly un-modern, and un-American. I believe that I have exposed these things and recommended a different course of living. Of course the older women should mentor the younger women, and older men the lads. It is happening some in our church, maybe not enough and maybe not as effectually—I am very open to suggestions, to efforts toward improving this situation. What activities can we design and commit to that would promote this? Let’s find, design and do those. Some have gone to nursing homes to learn how to honor their elders. Some have opened their hearts, if not their homes to intergenerational outreach. Some have attended FUN. And some have offered meal hospitality—and ministry. All this and more is the fruit of true doctrine and scriptural preaching. But have all done these things in hopes of exalting the name of Jesus? Maybe not explicitly enough. Still, everyone seems to be learning from everyone—across generational and social lines.

That being the case, I do not think that anyone can justly accuse us of not taking the bible seriously! From the preaching to memorization, our love of the Word and Jesus is made public.

Being a disciple means you have obtained soul liberty. You are free to fearlessly worship God, free to serve your Lord and Master, free to obey and free to walk righteous in a very troubled and fallen world.