

Sacred Songs, Life Lessons

A Song for the Family

Psalm 127

July 14, 2024

HDBC

The topics found in the Bible's songbook are as multifaceted as the topics found in life. They include worship, depression, relationships, conflict, creation, love, faith, hope, end times, music and so much more. Today, let's look at a psalm that deals with the family. The strength of a city, a nation and a culture is greatly dependent upon the health of its families. The crumbling family is a sign of a crumbling culture.

Billy Graham was right when he wrote in his book, ***World Aflame***.

The immutable law of sowing and reaping has held sway. We are now the hapless possessors of moral depravity, and we seek in vain for a cure. The tares of indulgence have overgrown the wheat of moral restraint. Our homes have suffered. Divorce has grown to epidemic proportions. When the morals of society are upset, the family is the first to suffer. The home is the basic unit of our society, and a nation is only as strong as her homes. The breaking up of a home does not often make headlines, but it eats like termites at the structure of the nation.

He was right then and he is still right. The Bible often speaks of the family. When it does, we need to pay careful attention. The culture will scoff at the words of Scripture when it comes to the family, listen, learn and obey, anyway. The culture will resist the Bible's instruction related to the family, follow them anyway. The culture will make war with the Biblical nature of the family. Lovingly but steadfastly fight back. The families of the church are the only defense against the erosion of the culture into moral chaos. So, I want to call on the families of HDBC to stand strong in the Lord, trusting His word and obeying His instructions.

We must do so for this generation.

We must do so for the generations to come.

We must do so for the glory of the Lord.

With that in mind, let's learn from Psalm 127, then apply what we learn. **Read the psalm.** Note four things taught in this song about the family.

1. **The Builder of the Family (1a)**

The clear focus of the first two verses is that God is the center of the family. Note the repeated phrase, ***unless the Lord***. It appears first in each of the sentences, giving it emphasis and focus. His presence in the family means three things. First, He is the **builder of the family**.

Clearly the text is not referring to the actual building of a house. Not talking about hammers and nails, but about the building of the family. If anyone or anything else builds the family, it will be in vain. In other words it will have no stability, no staying power, not strength. It is essential that each family unit is founded by God and is built by God.

When Jan and I married we were keenly aware that we were entering into a relationship not between two but between three. We knew that God was essential in building our family.

If you build your marriage and family on money, it will be frail.

If you build it on attractions it will be weak.

If you build it on the strength of your own abilities, it will falter.

If you build it on your own wisdom, it will be fragile.

The Bible is clear. If you want a strong, lasting, vibrant family it must be built by God and not by any human ingenuity or force.

2. **The Guardian of the Family (1b)**

The writer shifts the image to that of guarding a city, but he still has the family in mind. That becomes clear when you get to verses 3-5. Here, the writer reminds us that the family will be under great attack and needs to be defended by God Himself. We are unable to provide the kind of defense that our families need. We must rely upon the power, strength, wisdom and protection of God.

Make no mistake about it. Your family is under constant attack. The forces of Satanic darkness want to steal, kill and destroy the members of your family and to destroy your family unit. The only defense is an absolute reliance upon the Lord.

You must recognize the reality of the enemy and his intentions.

You must pray for your family.

You must teach your family the truth of God's word.

You must model for your family how to trust God.

You must trust the Word of God and obey it in all things.

In doing these things you will be allowing God to be the strong and mighty guardian for your family.

3. The Provider for the Family (2)

God is not only the builder of the family and the guardian of the family, He is the provider for the family. The point of verse 2 is not to minimize the importance of work, but of realizing that your work alone is not enough. Ultimately, God provides for the your family. Again, this does not mean you should be lazy. We should work hard. But when we see the fruit of our labor in providing for our families we must realize that God is the ultimate source of that provision.

Long, hard hours of work may be good and commendable, but they alone are not enough. In fact, too many hours at work, while ignoring the place of God in the life of your family will produce just the opposite of what you are hoping for. **Painful labors** will be the result, not joy, contentment and peace in the family.

The builder of the family must be God.

The guardian of the family must be God.

The provider of the family must be God.

God must be first-place in your life. Is He?

If not, why not? If not, what will you do to correct this?

4. The Children in the Family (3-5)

The last half of this song deals with the subject of children in the home. The writer wants to catch our attention with the word **behold**. In effect, *pay attention, listen up!* He then offers three titles or designations for children. Parents this is what God thinks of your kids and it is how you are to view them. You will not do so naturally. You will have other thoughts than these. So, you will have to trust the word of God and determine to see your kids through God's lens. There are three.

1) Kids are Gifts

It is a translation of a Hebrew word that means *property* or *possession*. That which is shared or assigned. Children are possessions of the Lord and He graciously assigns them to or shares them with parents.

You will notice that it does not say **some children**. It simply says children implying that it refers to **all children**. From God's point of view there are no **accident** children. There may be some accident-prone children, but no accident children. Each is a gift from God.

By the way, a gift is something to be gladly received. And in this case of children, carefully treasured. If you have children, just know that they were given to you by God and He expects you to take seriously your role as their caretaker, nurturer, and defender.

2) Kids are Rewards

The word **rewards** carries with it the idea of **pleasure**. Something given as a tangible proof of appreciation. Children should never be viewed as punishments from God but as evidence of God's pleasure with you. The nature and worth of the gift is a great sign of the level of appreciation and love that is demonstrated with the gift.

Twelve years ago this church presented me with a Suzuki Boulevard motorcycle, in celebration of my twenty years as your pastor. That

may not say much for some, but realized it was an act of great love and appreciation not only that you would spend that kind of money but that you would take that kind of risk in given such an unusual gift. I already knew I was loved and appreciated. That gift confirmed in a tangible way what I knew. Your kids are signs of God's love!

3) Kids are Arrows

The word picture is that of a warrior with arrows in his hand. In battle the warrior doesn't stop to make his arrows, nor does he ignore them. He uses them. He directs them toward a target.

Do you know how much time and effort goes into the making of an arrow? You have to choose the right piece of wood, make sure it's the proper weight and balance. Then you have to fit the feathers, the arrowhead and the wood together and make sure the arrow is adequate to hit the target you're aiming at.

Arrow is totally useless until someone picks it up, takes a bow and shoots it. But before you shoot it, you must aim it.

Parents, you are responsible for providing direction for your kids while they are under your care. There will come a time when they will have complete autonomy over their own decisions. But when they are young, you must point them in the right direction.

This involves instruction, discipline and mentoring by example. All are important. Teach them what they need to know. Correct them when they willfully disobey or sin against God. Model what it means to please God.

Your kids are arrows and you are the one who controls the bow. Send them out boldly, confidently, and with purpose.

4) Kids are Blessings

Your children were given to you by God as a sign of his blessing upon you.

The lack of children does not signal that He is displeased with you in any way. Not a sign that he has withdrawn his blessing.

However, in each case where children are present, they represent the blessing of God. In fact Solomon says the man who is really blessed is the man who has a quiver full of children.

How much is a quiver? However many the Lord gives to you!

Avoid two extremes. Looking down on those who have few children than you or on those whom you think have too many children.

Four descriptions of our children: **Gifts, Rewards, Arrows, Blessings.**

Verse 3 – Gifts/Rewards: When they come into our lives. Children.

Verse 4 – Arrows: When send them out into the world as adults.

Verse 5 - Blessings: Support in our time of aging.

So, how do you see your children? I hope you realize that they are precious gifts from God. And I hope you will let them know that. Let them know just how precious they are to you. Tell them and show them.

Parenting is not a secondary career.

Parenting is not a temporary inconvenience.

Parenting is not a necessary evil.

Parenting is one of life's greatest blessings.