

Connect Group Notes 16 May 2010

Families – Ps Phil Pringle

Psalm 68:5-5-6 (NKJV). "A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land."

The power of strong families – God has always been committed to families, He is a family God and not alone as He is a part of 3 (Father, Son & Holy Spirit).

Psalm 68:5. No one in the whole world is without a father as all have a biological father. However a father is someone who raises their children.

Psalm 68:6. God desires to take and Father the isolated, marginalised and abandoned. The Church can be the greatest family you could find on this planet. Young people are in need of being in our homes and having a fatherly figure that they can just see what you do, e.g. even learning to sit together and eat at a table. We can offer a family of inclusion to those that have been isolated; all of us can be involved.

Malachi 4:6. So many fathers are away from their children. The end time church supports the return of children to fathers and fathers to children.

Men in the Church: The masculine spirit in the house of God needs to be maximised. That is not to minimise the nurturing, caring, loving role that woman bring, but we need men to take their place:

- Stand up for Christ and be willing to take risks, despite danger and persecution
- Lay down their lives for a cause and stand up for their values
- See church as a place for 'gutsy' men not just women and children
- Feel proud of church and invite other men
- When men come to Christ 91% of the time whole families will come into the house of God compared to women to Christ (20%) and young people to Christ (9%)
- Men need to be unashamed and unafraid of what they are called to do

Men in the Bible: Acts 16: 16-40.

- Paul and Silas were imprisoned in Philippi. Paul was a 'man's man' – took risks, influenced many. He had learnt from Jesus. They were real men who understood authority and power
- Used singing, worshipping and prayer – singing is not an unmanly thing. Great worship can come out of the heart of a warrior (e.g. David).
- God heard their worship and replied by 'shaking the whole earth', using an earthquake to set them free. They witnessed to the jailer/guard who was about to end his own life, and brought him and his household to the Lord.
- David was another man that proved this – he made mistakes but God made a covenant to bless him and his descendants.

Men are a doorway into the whole community and network of people. We all leave a legacy and change the generations to come. We achieve influence through just being a follower and staying our course.

God has committed himself to family networks all through history. Any promise to us, will also travel to our children (**Acts 2: 39**). If you are struggling with your family or your children, stand on the promise of God in **Isaiah 54:13 (HCSB)**.

Sometimes those from difficult backgrounds are tempted to justify or explain why they behave a certain way and remain victims. Today you can be helped by having Jesus Christ in the inside and rising up from the things that have shaped you. Make a choice to draw a line in the sand and start a new blessing in your life and everyone around. God's hand commits itself to a person and its seed – we can start a revolution in the power of Christ to change the destiny of anyone around us.

TALK ABOUT

- **What could you offer a young person from within our church who is in need of family life?**
- **Ps Phil talked about the relationships he had in his first church establishing him in Christ and linking him into a strong family – recall who or how this happened for you – or is it in area you still need support in?**
- **From the sermon and scripture what are some of the instructions/principles that will support us 'having a good life'?**

REPORTING <http://myc3church.net/cgi-bin/exform.pl>

Connect Leader Training

Please remember that Connect Leader Training is coming up at the Oxford Falls Campus on Sunday 23rd May and on Tuesday 25th May. Training starts on Sunday at 11am or Tuesday at 7.30pm, both held in the Glasshouse and only 2 hours long. And don't forget, its free of charge! Please send your assistant leaders and any up and coming leaders to the training for them to be equipped to run a connect group. It's also a great refresher for all connect group leaders. RSVPs can be sent to connect@my3church.net.