

***Recovering Biblical Families*** Primary text: Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Introduction: quotes from **Mr. Manton's letter** to the reader: "A family is the seminary of Church and State; and if children be not well principled there, all miscarrieth: a fault in the first concoction is not mended in the second; if youth be bred ill in the family, they prove ill in Church and Commonwealth; there is the first making or marring, and the presage of their future lives to be thence taken, Prov. 20:11. By family discipline, officers are trained up for the Church, 1 Tim. 3:4, One that ruleth well his own house, etc.; and there are men bred up in subjection and obedience." ... "O how sweetly and successfully would the work of God go on, if we would but all join together in our several places to promote it! Men need not then run without sending to be preachers; but they might find that part of the work that belongeth to them to be enough for them, and to be the best that they can be employed in. Especially women should be careful of this duty; because as they are most about their children, and have early and frequent opportunities to instruct them, so this is the principal service they can do to God in this world, being restrained from more publick work. And doubtless many an excellent magistrate hath been sent into the Commonwealth, and many an excellent pastor into the Church, and many a precious saint to heaven, through the happy preparations of a holy education, perhaps by a woman that thought herself useless and unserviceable to the Church. Would parents but begin betimes, and labour to affect the hearts of their children with the great matters of everlasting life, and to acquaint them with the substance of the doctrine of Christ, and, when they find in them the knowledge and love of Christ, would bring them then to the pastors of the Church to be tried, confirmed and admitted to the further privileges of the Church, what happy, well-ordered Churches might we have !"

**1. Families are God's plan for humanity**

1. "not good" for the man to be alone. Gen 2:18.
2. The command to be fruitful and multiply. Gen 1:28.
  1. Multiplication of image-bearers. Gen 1:26–27.
  2. Multiplication of families. Gen 2:24.

**2. Families have a schedule to keep**

1. When you lie down and when you rise up. Deut 6:7b.
2. Where evenings and mornings came from. Gen 1:31b in context.

1. Ps 5:3 My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.
  2. Ps 88:13 But to You I have cried out, O LORD, And in the morning my prayer comes before You.
  3. Ps 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.
3. Mornings and evenings restored in the church.
1. Ex 29:38–39 Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight
  2. Dan 9:21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering

### 3. **Families have a God-given pastime/tradition**

1. Family worship shapes all our other interactions. Deut 6:7a.
2. What we do as we grow up into Christ.
  1. Eph 4:14–15 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
  2. So the ordained ministry is appointed by Christ to shape all of our Christian relationships as ministry to one another.
  3. In the home, this should be led by the husband/father (next session).
  4. One's household are a believer's nearest brothers and sisters. If you do not have spiritual fellowship in the covenant household, why would you think that you will have it in the congregation?
3. Having the way we do things in common (according to God's Word!) and the way we see things in common (according to God's Word!). Deut 6:8a, 8b.
  1. The family worship and family interaction is a primary means of this sort of living. And those three, taken together, should be the core of our family fellowship.

2. We learn to have multigenerational fellowship at home, so that we may have “congregationally integrated churches.” If we are not connecting with one another, the problem is worse than demographics. The problem is that we are not properly connected to God and His Word. And this must begin at home.

#### 4. **Families have a God-given identity**

1. Family identity. Deut 6:9a.
  1. Church in the house. Rom 16:5. 1Cor 16:19. Col 4:15. Phm v2. Our family ought to be like a church.
  2. Household sign which we must not make into a liar. Ac 16:15, Ac 16:33, 1Co 1:16, etc. You should aim so to fill your family’s life with the Bible that if you did not already have a family name, and the community or the church were to come up with one for you, they would select “Bibleman”
2. Community identity. Deut 6:9b. When there are enough households in a place that have such an identity and dynamic, then the gates of that city might bear such a name. Would that our mindset, our character, and our conduct were such that strangers who became acquainted with our community might call it “Bibleberg”

Conclusion: the hope for the church, the hope for the nation, the hope for your family: God’s use of His Word in you right now. That His Spirit would take His Word and apply it to your heart and form your family’s schedule, your family’s fellowship, and your family’s identity. And then God would continue working by His Word every day in your home. And especially every week in the Lord’s Day assemblies. (which we will think about tomorrow morning)

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))

Deuteronomy chapter 6, verses 4 through 9 reads. Hear o Israel. Yahweh. Our God. Yahweh is one. You shall love Yahweh. Your God with all your heart with all your soul. And with all your strength, And these words, which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children.

And shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk, by the way, When you lie down. And when you rise up, You shall bind them as a sign on your hand? And they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and On your gates.

Amen. Thus ends this reading of gods inspired and And Aaron twerked. Rejoice. Has taught us in his word that He blesses. Also the preaching. And the believing hearing. In Deuteronomy was Moses. Uh, farewell sermon. As he was about to die on the other side of the Jordan, it was a sermon designed to prepare God's people to live in relationship, with him to live in Covenant with him in the land into which The Lord was bringing them in this part of Deuteronomy, in particular sets the Lord before them as the purpose of all things.

Uh, he is the God who is I am that I am and a contraction of that. Now in his Memorial name, his Covenant name, Yahweh and therefore all of his creatures are created for his glory but there is the one creature that is created to enjoy his glory to know him and have relation with him and that's you.

Of all the things that God has made, even the Angels who are holy and righteous and Powerful are yet. Just ministering Spirits sent to serve those who are inheriting salvation. Those who are inheriting the great salvation of God, bringing many sons to glory in the Lord. Jesus Christ. Uh, as Moses is.

Preaching this which we have just heard and we have just read, they're reminded that not only are they The ones whom the Lord has created to know him, they're ones. Whom the Lord has redeemed for himself he doesn't just say Yahweh God. He says Yahweh your God The Lord who has delivered you out of Egypt, not so that you could deliver you from Egypt so much as so that he would gather you to himself.

So that you Would know him as your own God and know, yourself selves as his own people. Well, in our heritage and our spiritual Heritage in the associate reform Presbyterian Church. There was a similar season in the life of Scotland Scotland, which for hundreds of years had been Under the, the spiritual darkness and slavery of Roman Catholicism.

And then in that General pouring out of his Spirit, by which God brought Reformation in the 16th century, he brought it to Scotland through men like wisher and and Knox and and others and then in the 17th century. It seemed that the Lord was bringing it to the entire Kingdom.

Uh, to England, Scotland, and Ireland. And the parliament had called an assembly for uh for revising the 39 articles. And reforming further reforming, anglicanism and praise God. The Westminster Assembly. Uh, rightly recognized that the 39 articles were not really something you could revise it needed something. New all together.

Something more thoroughly biblical. And that's That's how we get the Westminster Confession of faith and and the catechisms. Sadly. Documents were not. We're not adopted. Uh, Generally by the church in England or in Ireland, but it was They were by. The Scots Presbyterians. And they were looking forward to.

They covenanted themselves to the Lord, they saw the Lord as having shown, great Mercy in delivering them from error and delivering them not just from theological era but impurity of worship having deserved to be destroyed by God as a nation and having deserved to be destroyed by God as a church instead, God had sent his word to them.

Brought them to a true and right knowledge of himself in Jesus Christ. So that they They had come into this season of recognizing God as their God and themselves as his people, not only

in the church, praise God, but even in the state, And so they they're not the original Christian nationalists Christians anywhere, where?

They have had the majority in a nation have. Uh, have seen God's mercy and in bringing that Nation out of darkness and into the Light of Christ. But they desired very much for further Reformation of of Doctrine and worship. And the reason we are starting with recovering biblical families, Is because that was actually.

The. Of those pastors who are gathered the Westminster assembly. Those who are Spiritual fathers. Um, and among reformed Presbyterians. I'd like to read to you a couple of Selections. From Mr. Matton's letter to the reader. There are a couple of letters. Appended, this was not the official one originally, but But it was signed by so many of the Westminster divines and and so well attested that if you get a copy of all of the documents from the Westminster assembly, it's almost always included.

If you're Hopewell member and you've picked up your Um, your copy of Of that light blue. Covered. Volume, it's in. Uh, but this is one of the These are a couple of the things that Mr Manton and The other men who signed this letter said about the reason, For or their desire at least for the Westminster Confession of faith and catechisms Etc.

And say a family is the Seminary of church and state using Seminary to mean like Nursery. Okay, so you know what you're doing in February, getting your Your seedlings going. Um, A family is the Seminary of church and state and if children be not well principled there. All miscarrieth A fault in the first concoction is not mended in the second.

And if youth be bred ill in the family, They prove ill in the church and the Commonwealth. There is the first making or marring. And the passage of their future lives to be then taken. Refers to Proverbs 20 11, even a child is known by his deeds. Family discipline officers are trained up for the church first Timothy 3.

Verse 4 one that ruleth well his own house Etc. So not just for the children but for the training of husbands and fathers that they would be prepared to be qualified officers in the church. Oh, how sweetly? This is from a little bit later in the letter. Oh, how sweetly and successfully with the work of God?

Go on if we would, but all join together in our several places to promote it. Father each mother each child, each Elder, each preacher. Oh how sweetly and successfully with the work of God go on if we would but all join together in our several places to promote it?

Men need not then run without sending to be preachers. But they might find that part of the work that belongeth to them to be enough for them. And to be the best that they can be employed. Especially women should be careful of this Duty because as they are most about their children and have early and frequent opportunities to instruct them.

So this is the principal service. They can do to God in this world. Being restrained, from more public work. And doubtless many an excellent magistrate. Hath been sent into the Commonwealth and many an excellent. Pastor into the church and many a precious Saint to heaven, through the happy preparations of a holy education.

Perhaps by a woman that thought herself useless and unserviceable to the church. Would parents but Begin by times and labor to affect the hearts of their children with the great matters of everlasting life and to acquaint them with the substance of the doctrine of Christ. And when they find in them the knowledge and love of Christ would bring them.

Then to the pastors of the church to be tried confirmed and admitted into the further privileges of the church. Well, ordered churches, we might have And so forth. So, that's the reason that we're beginning here. It's One of the places that God began with his people, preparing them to be a church and Nation at the same time.

Um, as the only church state there has been or will be this. Uh, of Gloria that's where God began and his giving graciously wisdom to our spiritual forefathers. That's one of the great places that they were beginning following the Westminster assembly. And so, In the Half an hour or so.

We'll try to consider recovering biblical families, recovering biblical families, We'll do this under four headings first. Families, being God's plan for Humanity. Second families, having a schedule to keep Third families. Having a god-given tradition or pastime. And fourth family is having a god-given Identity. First of all, families are God's.

For Humanity, one of the things that I'm Disturbed to hear not so much in the world, although that's disturbing too, but sometimes from those who prefers to be Believers, is something like the question of well, who's to say, what a family is anyway? Well, God is To say, what a family as families, are his original plan.

For Humanity. It was he who having said it was good about everything else and then he makes the man and he has not yet made uh the woman. The alright God said it is not good. That man should be alone. In other words, he isn't finished yet with a with the man who is still single There is.

Uh, there is of course singleness today. But singleness is or Perpetual unfulfilled singleness is actually a consequence of the fall that's not to say that God does not in Mercy, use those who remain single all their life or that one who is widowed or abandoned has lost usefulness in the church.

It's actually part of the glory of God that even in our broken State, he himself is husband to the Widow and father to the orphan. But that is not the original design. The original design is for marriage, it is not good. Uh, that the man should be alone. It is not good to Uh, in the idea of delaying marriage, or de-prioritizing marriage, having a list of things that you want to do and accomplish before, you'll even begin to consider marriage, these things are just inconsistent with the design of God.

For Humanity is not good for the man to be alone. In Genesis 2 verse 18, a husband and a wife together. Our God's plan for Humanity and not just a husband and a wife, but a husband, and a wife who bear children. The command. Uh to be fruitful and multiply in Genesis 1 verse 28, then God blessed them and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply fill the Earth and subdue it.

But this doesn't just be fruitful and and multiply like to the other. Creatures the other breathing enemy creatures, this is be fruitful and multiplied to his image bearers. This isn't just numerical. It's theological and spiritual. They were to fill the Earth with the image of God. Uh, and they were to do this by bearing children but not just children.

Children who would go up at grow up and get married and produce other produce new households. Uh, so that when he had given the woman to the man, he says therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh.

In other words just like we shouldn't believe in church bloating. But church planting, you know, if if your church is too big for A local session to pastor and know everyone in the congregation

and keep up with how they're doing. It's just it's too big because God teaches us in his word that the Elders of the church should Shepherd, the people of the church and we have to fulfill all of those uh one anothers even as as church members.

And so Church multiplication is God's plan not uh church expansion. Well, the same thing with families Yeah, sometimes you Uh, you get run into people who have started to grasp the The focus on uh that God has on the family and they suddenly want to have these multi-generational but kind of ultra patriarchal uh households where you got four generations in the house and there's still just a one Dad at no.

Of her husband or the son is supposed to leave. God wants multiplied households multiplied. Families of image. Bearers not bloated or expanded once as their continued honor of course. You know, there is Remaining connection. That's one of those things that we Can't get into. We're already a few minutes over on this point.

So families are God's original plan. For Humanity families, also have a schedule to keep Uh, back then to Deuteronomy chapter 6. If you don't have a Bible with you, I'm sorry for that, I As we've got ones that you can borrow. Uh verse 7, you shall teach them diligently to your children.

You shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way so everywhere you go. But there are particular times that he commands, he says, when you lie down and when you rise up, You know, mornings and evenings are not an accident of Some unguided Cosmic.

Uh physics. God created mornings and evenings. In fact, God, created mornings and evenings before he created sun and moon. The first day, what he created was light and he separated the light from the darkness. Now, why would God create mornings and evening sets? That's something. We should ask, you know, we've lost that there are those who come to passage like Genesis 1 which in in the Hebrew is just very plainly narrative.

It doesn't bear any of uh, the Hallmarks of poetry. And man having been affected by those who have attempted to theorize, how the world could come into being without God has decided that what God has said about how he created somehow can't be true. We'll have. Men who join our Presbytery or I guess it was a commission, so they've already joined our Presbytery men who will meet with us for the first time.

Tomorrow afternoon and evening who don't believe. In a literal six ordinary day. Creation. But if we submit ourselves to God and we come to a passage like Genesis 1 and we notice God created mornings and we still have them the sun just set. It's going to come up again in the morning and not only did the sun just set, but you get the cool of the evening and the refreshing in the morning, the winds tend to blow more around the Bedtime.

And in the morning when you get up, God gave you that God created and started that before he even created, man. Do you think mornings and evenings? Are here, especially for The, the planet that we're on, or Uh, or the oceans or any of the other creatures, God does good to all of those creatures through mornings and evenings but it is especially for man.

Just like man was not created for the Sabbath but the Sabbath was created for man. God did not uh, did not rest on the seventh day because he was so tired of how hard it was to create on the other six days. God did not give evenings and mornings because he needs a cool down and a break at the end of the day or he needs to warm up and get himself going in the morning.

He has given it to us. You give it to us even in our unfallen state. So even when In our first father, Adam. We're in knowledge righteousness and Holiness, God created. To be warmed up to him with Worship in the morning and worship and to cool down with him at the end of the day with Worship in the evening.

It was it was a at that point in the breeze of the day when when man sinned and fell in chapter three, That he heard the Lord God in the breeze of the day. I think most of our English translations say, the cool of the day is the the wind of the day or the breeze of the day, maybe the spirit of the day but probably the the wind of the day.

God, created mornings and evenings. This is one of the reasons why the Psalms which he has given us. And also, he gave to his son, our Lord Jesus that he who had to grow in wisdom and stature in favor with God. And with man would have these songs and these prayers for for shaping and instructing the whole range of how you interact with God.

Psalms 53, my voice. You shall hear in the morning. Oh, y'all, hey, in the morning. I will direct it to you and I will look up. Psalm 88 verse 13 to you. I have cried out o Yahweh in the morning. My prayer comes before. You Psalm 55 verse 17, evening and morning.

And at noon, I will pray and cry aloud and he shall hear my voice. Uh, one of the things. One of the things that God gave Israel in their ceremonial law. We're daily morning and evening sacrifices. So that there would be Uh, one lamb. One, yearling lamb offered in the morning, one yearling lamb offered in the evening and the families, then, who would be worshiping in the morning and in the evening and the individuals, also, who would be worshiping the Lord in the morning in the, in the evening would know that their worship is connected to this corporate sacrifice.

That that God's provision of the sacrifice, which we know of course is ultimately Christ himself. Is that by which our families come to him that by which we you individually, come to him. This idea of Uh, of daily devotions and I hope morning and evening. Devotions and and prayers both in secret.

And in the family, it didn't originate uh with methodists. Uh, although they, you know, love their methods, as you can hear in the Uh, in the name. It originates with God. He invented. Mornings and evenings. And that may be difficult in in different contexts. You know, if if Dad has to run early and the family is not not going yet, it may be a good time just for prayer and devotion with your wife, or if you've got older children who can be awakened without harming them, your children need sleep, you understand that?

But but what a blessing if they can at least gather with Dad, as he's on his way out the door and have 30 seconds of prayer. Family. And then winding down the day again and in the word and prayer. You know, this was one of the ways in which that Daniel and his three friends had been so prepared to deal with Babylon.

And make no mistake, your children will eventually deal with Babylon that does not mean, send them to Babylon to be educated and trained and reared. But it does mean so observe. Family religion, the training of your children more. When you lie down evening, when you rise up morning evening and morning every day of their life, Uh, so observant that if they were to be taken from you young, And who knows?

That such bigoted people who believe in the exclusivity of Christ. And God as the inventor of families and God is defining, what a man is and what a woman is such Such bigoted people as we are, we say that sarcastically children, that's what they say about us might be soon deemed by the state unfit to have children and Babylon will come and take them.



But let us aim so to do with them that as Daniel's parents by God's grace had done with him. Daniel 9 verse 21. This is his prayer at the time, where he, having received the book of Jeremiah, who was his contemporary As scripture. Recognized in the word of God from this fellow Prophet.

The the 70 years were up. And 70 years later. So, now Daniel's in his 80s It's been 70 years since he's been in Jerusalem, it's been at least. You know, 50 years since they had the sacrifices and yet one of the reasons, one of the things that he associated with his evening prayers, Daniel 9 verse 21.

I I know we're just lifting and we can go back and do it in context. We just don't have time for that. Yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel whom I had seen in the vision of the beginning being caused to fly. Swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering About the time of the evening offering.

This man in his 80s who hasn't seen it in 70 years and hasn't even done in 50 years. Is still connecting. His morning and evening. Worship. His morning and evening meditation upon God's word and prayer. To that which God provides corporately in the substitute through whom we come to him.

You want to get the gospel into your children? It's not merely a repetition of lines, although repetition is great and children pick things up and we believe in catechizing and scripture memory and and those things But you get the gospel of Christ into your children, by bringing your children through Christ, and his gospel to God, evening, and morning, and evening, and morning, and evening, and morning.

All their life, long. And then what could Babylon possibly do. To try to convince a child to whom the Holy Spirit has blessed that. That their God doesn't exist or that. Sin isn't wicked. Or that Christ has not solved it and that he is not to be pleased and obeyed all those things.

Well we must run on. Families. Have a schedule to keep whatever else is your family's schedule. Figure out a way. Figure out a way. To get morning and evening, secret and family worship, even if Uh, even if one of those has to be, everyone does secret worship. And you know that as a family, everyone is doing secret worship, even if it's not together.

And at the other everyone does family worship, but make sure you get both and make sure you get mornings and evenings, none of you should start your day. Other than reading and praying with God, none of you should finish your day. Other than meditation upon his word and prayer.

This is God's schedule. No, I published a schedule for my family, sometimes it's got 17 things that we do. You don't have to keep Any of those? Except. The morning and evening worship. That's why mornings and evenings exist in the first place. That's why God designed a world that cools off in the evening.

And that has a gradual Dawn, sunrising in the morning. It's for you. To know him. Well families. Don't just have a god-given schedule. They have a god-given Pastime. And tradition. You know, family worship shapes or should shaped what we have in family worship. And what we have, of course, in family worship, is God himself by means of his word.

It should be shaping. The rest of our life. These words, which I command you today shall be in your heart. Well, how is that going to happen? It's not just saying, by the way. It's not just saying, memorize the Bible. You should memorize scripture. Uh, that's uh, that's good for you.

That's one way to honor it and You memorize a lot of other things. God himself has spoken to you. Do you think you should maybe memorize that? Um, but when he says it shall be in your heart saying, it should control your thoughts, feelings and choices, desires decisions, the heart is.

Um, the seat of the intellect, the seat of the affections, the seat of the will And so we'll get to that with. The father is Lord willing. In the next talk, we we have to leave it. This will be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children.

You shall be eager and immediate. And consistent and zealous. And what does this look like? Well, it means When you sit in your house and when you walk, by the way, in other words, There's no part of your life in which you as a family should not be having Fellowship in the word of God together.

Uh, you know, we talk about sometimes Lord's Day conversations. Lord's Day conversations actually being forbidden. Uh, for a day to spend on unnecessary thoughts and words on worldly work or worldly Recreation. It actually helps us to do what we're actually supposed to be doing all day every day. Many.

Uh, many of us are spending our Lord's Day conversations, in ways, that wouldn't even stand up to the Deuteronomy 6 7 way of having an ordinary Family Day. On a first day or a second day, or Third day. You know, the moon doesn't own any day and voting doesn't Own any day.

We can, you can Another thing for another time. But what we have in the family worship should shape all of our other interactions as a family, When we grow up in Christ, and That's something. Of, you know, children, you're not meant to be children forever. Um, Uh, do not shrink away from maturing from growing from understanding, God, more and interacting with him, more and living.

A seriously, joyful, not a joyless life. But I profoundly significantly joyful life, a significantly meaningful life, because you're quote unquote, trying to enjoy your childhood. That's not being child up childlike. That's being childish. But we are not to be children. So Ephesians 4, one of the reasons for the ministry and we're actually not going to get into that at all.

This week is so that we should no longer be children. Tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of Doctrine by the trickery of men and the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting. But speaking, the truth in love may grow up. In all things into him. Who is the head Christ?

Well, the ordained Ministry that's appointed by Christ. Then is to shape all of our other Christian relationships as Ministry to one another. One of the, one of the Indicators that you have started to grow up that you have started to mature as a Believer is your conversations. That when you're with other people in the church sitting down in a home or when you're with other people in the church, walking by the way, your love for one, another causes you to speak the truth to one another and you don't have time, For false speculations and theological error.

And this is one of the reasons why God has given you his word by the apostles prophets and evangelists through whom Christ has given us the New Testament. And this is one of the reasons why God has given you the ministry of his word. Through those Pastor teachers, I guess we did get into verse 11, uh, Ephesians chapter 4 We wouldn't know how to love our brothers and sisters in the church.

Well, by speaking, the truth to one another What is better for your brother or sister in the church than to grow up into Christ? Who is the head? But you know who the nearest brothers

and sisters you have in the church are It's your family. There is no one to whom the one another.

Of the New Testament belongs in your life, more than your wife, more than your husband more than your children more than your parents. More than your siblings. This should be our family's favorite pastimes, whatever other pastimes we add to that. This is the one. That should be coloring shaping.

Determining what our family interaction is like In the home. This should be led by the husband and the father Which Lord willing will do in the next session. We'll look at in the next session. But if we do not have spiritual Fellowship in our covenant households, If we're not having the Deuteronomy 6 7, sort of In our family.

Then why would we think that we would have it in the congregation? One of the things when we get to talking about Lord's day keeping and God sparing us to one another and bringing us back together tomorrow morning. We hope to think about that a little bit from the scripture.

One of the the things that I hear about it. It's just so hard. It feels so unnatural. I don't know how to do that. Well, how is it going to get to feel natural if you don't start doing it? You ask any athlete or musician? Now, something comes to be natural.

Well, we are designed commanded by God. To have that sort of interaction. In our families. Having the way we do things. The, the family's Fellowship is in part, having the way we do things in common And having the way that we see things. Uh, in common. Again, back to our primary text Deuteronomy, chapter 6, You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

There have there have been some very silly and Earthly ways. The people have applied this passage And I guess now that we have like a microfiche or SD cards or whatever you might, you might could get a whole Bible on there. Well, that would get sillier still, wouldn't it?

Was he saying he's saying? You bind God's words? There's a sign on your hand. In other words, everything you extend to do your hand to do. You do it because God's word has defined for you who you are and why you are And so, you do everything for that reason.

And God's word has defined for you. How to do everything. With what thoughts, and what feelings, what desires according to, what values and morality. Now, people who are doing everything in the same way, they're going to have a lot in common, aren't they? You know, if your family Is doing everything according to the same.

Um, Same principle and then seeing everything the same way they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You know, put your hand between your eyes and try to look at anything. Without seeing your hand. Without viewing it in relation to your hand.

The family worship and family interaction. Is a primary way we come to have that sort of Life and we have that sort of Fellowship. We learn to have multi-generational fellowship at home. In part so that we may have congregationally integrated churches. You know, the the scripture does does not treat us, teach us that families should be like uh oil and water.

You know, just one family and another family and But it does teach us that we should be congregationally integrated. So we don't use that that phrase family integrated, but we certainly don't believe in the family. Disintegrated Church either. If we are not connecting with one another, the problem is worse than demographics.

Sometimes, I hear recently, I've heard again to my great grief. Someone say, well, my children just don't seem to have any friends. At church. And I think you're at church. Are you not their friend? And are they not learning to know the God who created them, and who has put his name on them and offered Christ to them and whose word should be filling their their heart off of your lips mourning, and evening and all day and everything.

God, giving us to follow this. In a church of 102, your children will have 101 friends in the church. Because that which they have most in common even with their family. Will not just be the blood in their veins or the roof under which they sleep or the table at which they eat.

But the God who made them and whom they are knowing through his word.

The last place families have a god-given identity. Families. Have a god-given identity verse 9. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house. And on your Gates. You know, this is something that happens in the New Testament in several places. Where the scripture refers to the church in.

So and so's house. Uh, that's not saying, by the way, the so-and-so owns a building and their name is on the title. Um, And, And the congregation gathers there. Uh, A more recent misconception. Is saying. The head of that household is a Christian. And so that household is a church.

You know, the Lord has applied his sign to households. In Acts 16 15 with Lydia in 1633 with the Philippian Jailer and First Corinthians 1. 16 was Defiance and I think there are a couple other places Whether our household baptisms, You know, just just forget. The question. Of whether or not there were any babies or children.

Which it would be remarkable if there weren't They were household. Baptisms. The name. Father, Son and Holy Spirit was put on the house. The family.

But what if God puts his name? On our families on our households. Even calling our children. Holy Like First Corinthians 7 says with respect to just the one believing parent. Would it not be a blasphemy? If we then did not live as a household that belonged to Christ, we should aim.

So to fill our family's life with the Bible. That if we didn't have last names already and this has happened before in history, you know, the the Dutch get conquered and And they all have to. Write their names down and they're all just Making stuff up because they don't have last names.

And so, you know, Than this and Vander that from this, and from that, and You know, some of them end up being called from nothing and once had to minister in a Dutch town, it was a name nightmare. Uh you know the the phone book. Don't worry about what that is children.

You'll never know. Yeah, went from like A to van and then Vander to Z it was But you should aim. So to fill your family's life with the Bible. That. Your family or if your community or church were to come up with a family name, they would call you the Bibleman.

It would be John bibleman and Durham Bible men and Magnolia Bibberman and Charlie bibelman.

You shall write them on the doorposts of your house. And you know what? You get, if you you have a town or a city with enough households, where God is known and fellowshiped with through his word mourning and the evening. And when you sit down and um, and when you walk by the the way Up with Bible Berg.

You shall write them on the doorpost of your house and on your Gates. All that we would have. Such scripture saturated households and and such a density of them in this place where we live God sending his gospel and bringing people to Christ and forming households like this. The, you know, one day somebody would be driving through and whatever replaces.

Google don't forget, the Lord is forever. America is not forever and Google is not forever, and apple is not forever. They'd be driving through and the GPS would not say McCain's. Say Bibleville. Hopewell is good enough and sometimes it actually does say, oh, well, praise God. We could be identified.

By being God's people. According to God's word. The hope for the church, the hope for the nation, the hope for your family, God's use of his word and you and is that not what we are doing right now. Has his word not been opened. Does his Spirit, not use it to give faith and to grow faith and to sanctify and to equip you for every good work.

Our hope is in God, but this is the means that he uses Our hope is that his Spirit would take his word and apply it to your heart and form your family's schedule, or reform your family's schedule and reform your family's fellowship and reform, your family's identity. And then that God would continue.

We're a family who is operating that way to keep working by his word every day in your home when you lie down every day in your home, when you rise up every day in your home in whatever you're doing. And especially every week. And the Lord stays assemblies. Which Lord willing to think about tomorrow morning.

Hey man. Let's pray. Our Father in Heaven. We thank you for Giving us. The ability. To gather and consider your word. Thank you for creating the family. Thank you for the way you come by your gospel and redeem it. We pray. Lord that you would help us in the rest of the evening especially as we come to Address husbands and fathers.

That you would. Um, do more work by your word. For the glory of your name, for the sake of the men who are or will be Husbands and fathers. For all of our families for all of our churches, For our community for our nation. Grant that we ask in Jesus name, amen.