

Wantage Community Church, 5th November 2006

Sermon Notes:

We value Family

Genesis 1v27; 2v20-24; Ephesians 5v22-6v4; 1 Timothy 3v2-4

1. The role of Family

- a. To reveal its creator
- b. To bring God Glory
- c. For effective generational transfer (Deuteronomy 6v1-7; Psalm 78)

2. The nature of family

- a. Fatherhood (Ephesians 3v14)
- b. A place of reality
- c. Is inclusive

3. The role of church family

- a. To bring God glory—filling the earth with God's people
- b. To pass on the gospel from one generation to another

4. The nature of church family

- a. There is Fatherhood
- b. It aims to be real
- c. It should be inclusive

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5. For Reflection (ideally in small groups)

1. So where in our family life do we see the nature of God revealed; where is the creator being revealed in his creation? In what ways can we appreciate that we are glorifying God in our families?

2a. How can we better fulfil Paul's command, especially to fathers, to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord? Take some time to list together the qualities of God's fatherhood, supporting it from Scripture. Encourage one another by identifying those qualities already evident in each other as parents. Then share and pray for one another about those areas you would like to grow in.

2 b&c. For reflection - how inclusive is your family currently? Are relationships open and healthy with one another? Are there ways in which you could expand your family to include others?

3a. "A family on mission together". Seek God and share together what the next steps on this journey might be for your family, midweek group or church.

3b. For reflection - "Passing the baton to the next generation". In what ways could you see yourself taking a greater role in this process.

4a. Where do you recognise the importance of fatherhood in your life? How could the fathers in the church be helped to be more effective as spiritual dads?

4b. Without becoming grossly introspective, suggest ways in which the relationships within your small group could be stronger, deeper or more real.

4c. Do any of the examples of inclusiveness in the book of Acts have current relevance to the Wantage church?

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