

# Family Heritage Developer

Walkersville Christian Family Schools - *Established 1983*  
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*"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3*

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## Family Duty

By John Bunyan (1628-1688)

*Throughout this year, we will be reprinting a booklet written by John Bunyan that is a refreshing but to the point, reminder of the duty of a Christian family, according to the Word of God. This booklet will be reprinted in its original state with Old English in 5 articles, entitled "A Father's Duty to the Family in General: First, Touching the spiritual state of it. Second, Touching the outward state of it.," "The Duty of Wives," "Duties of Parents to Children," and "Duties of Children to Parents." We hope that this series encourages you to search the scriptures and study to show yourself approved by the Lord as you treasure His Design for Your Family!*

### A FATHER'S DUTY TO THE FAMILY IN GENERAL

He that is the master of a family, he has, as under that relation, a work to do for God; the right governing of his own family. And his work is twofold. First, Touching the spiritual state of it. Second, Touching the outward state of it.

First, As touching the spiritual state of his family; he should be very diligent and circumspect, doing his utmost endeavor both to increase faith where it is begun, and to begin it where it is not. For this reason, he should diligently and frequently lay before his household such things of God, out of his word, as are suitable for each particular. And let no

man question his rule in the word of God for such a practice; for if the thing itself were but of good report, and a thing tending to civil honesty, it is within the compass and bounds even of nature itself, and should be done; much more things of a higher nature; besides, the apostle exhorts us to 'Whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, pure, lovely, and of good report, to think of them,' that is, to be mindful to do them (Phil 4:8). But to be conversant in this godly exercise in our family, is very worthy of praise, and is very fitting to all Christians. This is one of the things for which God so highly commended his servant Abraham, and that with which his heart was so much affected by. I know Abraham, says God, 'I know him' to be a good man indeed, for 'he will command

his children, and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord' (Gen 18:19). This was a thing also which good Joshua designed should be his practice as long as he had a breathing time in this world. 'As for me,' says he, 'I and my household, we will serve the Lord' (Josh 24:15).

Further, we find also in the New Testament, that they are looked upon as Christians of an inferior rank that have not a due regard to this duty; yes, so inferior as not fit to be chosen to any office in the church of God. A [bishop or] pastor must be one that rules well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God? 'The deacon' also, says he, must 'be the husband of

one wife, ruling their children, and their own house well' (1 Tim 3). Notice, the apostle seems to lay down this much, that a man that governs his family well, has one qualification belonging to a pastor or deacon in the house of God, for he that knows not how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God? This, considered, gives us light into the work of the master of a family, touching the governing of his house.

1. A pastor must be sound and uncorrupt in his doctrine; and indeed so must the master of a family (Titus 1:9; Eph 6:4).

2. A pastor should be apt to teach, to reprove, and to exhort; and so should the master of a family (1 Tim 3:2; Deut 6:7).

3. A pastor must himself be exemplary in faith and holiness; and so also should the master of a family (1 Tim 3:2-4; 4:12). 'I,' says David, 'will behave myself in a perfect way; I will walk in,' or before, 'my house with a perfect heart' (Psa 101:2).

4. The pastor is for getting the church together; and when they are so come together, then to pray among them, and to preach unto them. This is also commendable in Christian masters of families.

**Objection:** But my family is ungodly and unruly, touching all that is good. What should I do?

**Answer:** 1. Though this be true, yet you must rule them, and not them you! You are set

over them of God, and you are to use the authority which God has given you, both to rebuke their vice, and to show them the evil of their rebelling against the Lord. Eli did this, though not enough; and so did David (1 Sam 2:24, 25; 1 Chron. 28:9). Also, you must tell them how sad your state was when you were in their condition, and so labor to recover them out of the snare of the devil (Mark 5:19).

2. You should also labor to draw them out to God's public worship, if perhaps God may convert their souls. Said Jacob to his household, and to all that were about him, 'Let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress' (Gen 35:3). Hannah would carry Samuel to Shiloh, that he might abide with God for ever (1 Sam 1:22). Indeed a soul rightly touched, will labor to draw, not only their families, but a whole city after Jesus Christ (John 4:28-30).

3. If they are obstinate, and will not go with you, then bring godly and sound men to your house, and there let the word of God be preached, when you have, as Cornelius, gathered your family and friends together (Acts 10).

You know that the jailor, Lydia, Crispus, Gaius, Stephanus, and others, had not only themselves, but their families, made gracious by the word preached, and that some of them, if not all, by the word preached in their houses (Acts 16:14-34; 18:7-8; 1 Cor. 1:16). And this, for all I know, might be one reason among many,

why the apostles taught in their day, not only publicly, but from house to house; I say, that they might, if possible, bring in those in some family, which yet remained unconverted, and in their sins (Acts 10:24; 20:20-21). For some, you know how usual it was in the day of Christ, to invite him to their houses, if they had any afflicted, that either would not or could not come unto him (Luke 7:2-3; 8:41). If this be the way with those that have outward diseases in their families, how much more then, where there are souls that have need of Christ, to save them from death and eternal damnation!

4. Take heed that you do not neglect family duties among them yourself; as, reading the word and prayer; if you have one in your family that is gracious, take encouragement. If you are alone, yet know that you have both liberty to go to God through Christ, and also are at that time in a capacity of having the universal church join with you for the whole number of those that shall be saved.

5. Do not allow any ungodly, profane, or heretical books, or discourse in your house. 'Evil communications corrupt good manners' (1 Cor. 15:33). I mean such profane or heretical books, etc., as either tend to provoke to looseness of life, or such as do oppose the fundamentals of the gospel. I know that Christians must be allowed their liberty as to things indifferent; but for those things that strike either at faith or holiness, they should be abandoned by all Christians, and especially by the pastors

of churches, and masters of families; which practice was shown by Jacob's commanding his house, and all that were with him, to put away the strange gods from among them, and to change their garments (Gen. 35:2). All those in the Acts set a good

example for this, who took their curious books and burned them before all men, though they were worth fifty thousand pieces of silver (Acts 19:18-19). The neglect of this fourth particular has occasioned ruin in many families, both among children and servants. It is

easier for vain talkers, and their deceivable works, to subvert whole households, than many are aware of (Titus 1:10-11)

Part 2 – "Touching the Outward State" to be continued...

## Becky's Tips

### With Him

"Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16:1-2

It is my prayer that we encourage one another to seek Him; trust Him and surrender to Him. Every trial that we face is made simpler as we get to know Him better. Every problem has a solution in Him. As we teach our children Bible, may our focus be on getting to know its Author.

### Weather

We have had unusual weather this winter making me more excited than usual for spring. I want to share something that I learned about myself during these icy days.

1. Some of the days I was very grateful for snow and confinement, giving me opportunity for free reading—all regular activities cancelled.

2. Some of the days I wished for warmer weather to melt the ice and snow allowing me to carry on my regular activities.
3. Some of the days I experienced too much confinement, creating agitation and griping.

My purpose for sharing this:

If God is sovereign and works all things for my good because He loves me, why would any weather not be cause for praise? When God drew this to my attention, I began noticing everyone talking about how he would improve the weather.

The conclusion for me is that I want to be alert to God's power at work, God's choice for me. Whether I understand what He's doing or not I can praise Him because I know He is ONLY good.

This same teaching that the weather gave me can be applied to every area of teaching.

Think about God's goodness when:

1. Your child disagrees with you.
2. You can't discover the best teaching methods.
3. Your schedule is never possible
4. Your workbooks are not teaching what you thought they would.
5. When one child seems disinterested during Bible.

### Championship

Excellence. Make it a goal to teach your child how to receive correction. This learning will benefit him his entire life. One of the big reasons for dissention – at home, at church, at work – is failure to receive correction.

We fall usually into one of these categories:

- failure and inability to receive correction.

- outward appearance of receiving correction (where most Christians fit).
- understanding correction as a gift from God, embracing it because you sincerely want to improve and become more like Him. It is this training that you want your child to receive.

### **Fear**

You need not fear whether you have taught enough this school year. Unless your

heart is hard and rebellious against God, He will guide you in a way that guarantees that you have taught enough.

When you find yourself fretting over your failures and inadequacies, evaluate how your eyes are fixed. Most always when we fear our eyes are fixed on:

- what others parents say.
- what you see other children doing.
- what you've read as perfect.

- what you've experienced in the past.

When you see this focus on fear, stop and praise God and ask Him to give you the gift of focus on Jesus. If there are real failures and inadequacies He will show you how to overcome them.

*Love,*

*Becky*

## **WCFS CAREER & TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

### **Construction Project**

Work has begun on the Cascade House. There are many projects to do and what an opportunity to learn construction skills. Work under WCFS Staff to learn multiple construction skills as well as project management and running your own business. We have been given the opportunity by an investor to allow our students to work on a complete home improvement project right here in Cascade, MD. We are looking for a few motivated students from now through the end of summer, and more for weekly/daily construction projects. What a great opportunity for the summer! A regular email

will keep you updated on the project and the upcoming tasks to be done.

### **Projects to include:**

- Floor Structure Repair
- Subflooring
- Finish Flooring
- Framing Repair
- Kitchen Cabinet Install
- Plumbing Repair & Fixture Install
- Electrical & Lighting
- Insulation
- Wall Repair
- Drywall Install & Finish
- Trim Install & Repair
- Caulking & Painting
- Siding Repair & Shutters Install
- Re-Roofing

### **Legislative Assistant**

Needed ASAP – Session is underway! This position will

assist in reviewing Maryland Family and Educational Law. Open to motivated high school age students with a desire to learn more about Maryland Law and the Legislative Process. Students will work from home and the WCFS office and attend Legislative sessions.

### **Audio & Video Production Assistant**

You will learn how to professionally produce and edit audio and video messages, conference sessions, and academic clinics. What a great way to learn this field and help us get some much needed projects completed.

*Call 301-241-2072 or email [admin@wcfs.edu](mailto:admin@wcfs.edu) for more information. What a great way to gain practical experience as well as earn high school credit.*