

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

DATE

June 24, 2018

SPEAKER

Brian Frost

SERIES

Building Blocks Of The Family

PART

7

TITLE

Next In Line

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 6:1-3; Proverbs 4:1-4



© 2018 Providence Baptist Church (Raleigh, NC)

Sermon transcripts may be used for preaching and teaching purposes, but may not be published or sold. While generally accurate, parts of this transcript may contain errors.

Providence reserves the right to correct and/or remove a transcript at any time.

Well, it is great to see you, Providence family. I hope that you have had a great week. To all of our guests here, welcome, and we're thrilled that you have joined us. I pray that you've seen some really just tangible ways that God's been active in your life. This last week, I was at camp with our students. I had the opportunity to see so many amazing things. You know, the leaders at Providence who ran that camp did an absolutely amazing job. Our counselors, our staff, our leadership just did a fantastic, fantastic job. Our students, your students, I was so proud of your kids, how they loved people, how they loved each other. Those on the outskirts were brought in. It was so incredible to see. Five kids actually went from death to life. They trusted Jesus Christ while we were at camp, which was an absolute miracle. Yeah, absolutely. I've had an amazing week. I'm a little bit tired this morning, but I've had an absolutely great week. I hope that you have had a great week as well.

We love the Bible here at Providence. It's because the Bible is the word of God. We love God and, therefore, we love to hear what he has to say to us. Next week, we're going to start a series. It's in Proverbs. It's called The Good Life. Every single one of us has an idea of what that is, but we don't necessarily all agree. We run after it. We sing about it. We pursue it. We talk about it. We all run in certain directions. Yet, so many times we have a hard time finding that promised land. Sometimes, we don't even necessarily pay attention to what the Lord has said about what truly is a life that is good. Yet, there's a book in the Bible called Proverbs. It's full of wisdom. This wisdom is like a guide.

It's like a friend who's watched every single person who's lived their life pursue this good life. This wisdom has seen every single person go down every dead end that there is. This guide called wisdom, he speaks into our life. He says, "Let me lead you to a life that is truly good." I can't wait. That will be all of July and August that we'll be in Proverbs. Today, we're in Ephesians chapter six and Proverbs chapter four as we finish our study on the family. If you have a Bible, Ephesians six and Proverbs chapter four. If you don't, there's lots of Bibles in the chairs near you. If you don't have one at home, please take that home as a gift. As you turn there, as we look about what God has to say to us, this final installment of these basic blocks that are building a healthy family, I want to pray for us. Let's pray together.

Father in heaven, we thank you. We thank you as a church family for what you've done in the lives of our students this last week. We thank you for the worship, for the enjoyment, for the fellowship, for the friendship. We also thank you, God, that you did miracles in the lives of people in our own church family this week. We give you praise for all of these things. We lay before you our families. We confess to you, God, that they're not perfect. Yet, they're important to us because they're important to you. I pray, God, that as we open up your word now, that you would speak through weakness, that you would give us joy as we read your word. God, I pray that even in those situations where we find ourself to where our life situation, where we have just a really hard time figuring out how this certain principle applies to our life, God, would you speak to every heart, even in words, Lord, that I can't say? Would you minister to the hearts of people, to each one of us, and lead us in the path of righteousness? We are grateful and we look to you now. We pray in Christ's name, amen.

Well, the Bible says that the family is God's idea. It originated in his mind, in his hands. It was his plan. He's its engineer. He's its ultimate creator. He formed basic building blocks that we've been looking at. These blocks, they stack on each other. When we have each of these blocks and we look at each of these blocks and we practice each of these blocks in a manner that God has prescribed within his word, what happens is it gives the family tremendous health. Not only our family tremendous health, but it actually sets our family up to be able to perpetuate other healthy families for the glory of God. We've looked at gender, man and woman. We've looked at singleness. We looked at marriage. We looked at sexuality, motherhood, fatherhood, and today we land on childhood.

There's kids in the room. I want you to know this is for you. There's also big kids in the room, 40-year-old kids in the room. We're all children of someone. There are principles that he has placed within his word that apply to anybody who fits into the mold of being a child of someone. In other words, it's for all of us, but specifically for children. You see, kids, you may be the smallest people in the room right now, but every single person in your family will one day lean on you later. This is his plan. You are important to this family of faith. You are important to God's family, and you are important to your family. What we want to do is to look at God's word at just two places I'm going to read to. There's going to be lots of passages as we look at what does God have to say to us about being a child in a family.

The first is in Ephesians chapter six. Now, we were here not too long ago, just about two months ago, so some of this should be fresh, but I think that there's some new insight. This is what he says. Starting in verse one, he says, "Children, obey your parents and the Lord for this is right. Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise. "That it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Then, the second thing I want to read to you is Proverbs chapter four verses one through four. This is Solomon writing. This is what he writes. He says, "Hear, O sons, a father's instruction and be attentive, that you may gain insight for I give you good precepts. Do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one on the side of my mother, he taught me and said to me, 'Let your heart hold fast my words. Keep my commandments and live.'"

What do we find in these two passages? What do we find within the scriptures about what God would say to each one of us if we happened to be a child of someone? What is God's placement of childhood within the family? The first thing is this. God invites children to come to Jesus. This is true, every single one of us. He invites children, you and me, young and old, to come to Jesus. Now, in Ephesians chapter six, it's important and it's not been long so I hope that you can remember some of this. This book, Ephesians, was actually penned by a man in prison. His name was Paul. Paul was in prison because of his faith in Jesus Christ. He refused to recant his conviction that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. People didn't like that so they put him in a prison.

Well, he writes a church and what he wants them to see is the power of the gospel, that Jesus died for our sin and rose from the dead and what it means to the every day of life. For the first three chapters, he tells us what God says is true about us in Jesus Christ. He gives us our identity and he tells us what God did for us. Then, the last three chapters what he does is he highlights different areas of life, practical areas of life, where we spend most or all of our time. He says, "Now, this is how the gospel applies to this area of life." You notice in chapter six verse one, he says children. Well, if you look over in verse four, he's going to say fathers. If you look at verse five, he says bond servants. Verse nine, he says masters. If you back up into chapter five verse 22, he talks to wives. In chapter five verse 25, he talks to husbands.

What is he doing here? He's saying let's look at how the gospel applies in marriage, in family, and in work. Let's see what Jesus, the fact that he rose from the dead, how it transforms the way that we live our life, treat people, and handle each of our responsibilities. Right before he starts identifying very specific roles of husband, wife, and children and father, he says something in verse 21 that literally is the key that undergirds everything that he's about to instruct. It's verse 21 and this is what he says. He says, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Now, this is a principle that I can tell you you can take this to the bank and it's this. When Jesus is king of the home and we are imitating his life, the family thrives.

Now, I'm not saying thrive means health and wealth and prosperity and things like this. What I'm saying is that you'll be together. There will be love. There will be peace. There will be harmony. Even when we sin against each other, when Jesus is the king of our home and we're imitating Jesus and how he treats us, how he treats people, what he says is this. Even if we sin against one another, we're going to forgive one another. We're going to imitate him. As a result of that, the family will continue to stay together. The family will thrive. Yet, this is an absolute miracle. It's a miracle that this takes place because whenever we see a child, we're looking at a person with immeasurable worth, but we're also looking at someone with immeasurable need. You see, every single child is made in the image of God. Every single child has dignity and worth and personhood. Every child, every person is important. Yet, the Bible says that every single child has immense spiritual need.

Now, you look at this picture and I know that they look cute, they look innocent. Little babies, they can look this way, but the fact is ever since the fall, every single baby is born with the capacity, the spiritual DNA to change and look like this, to where they sin. The Bible says that every baby, once Adam sinned against God, that his nature was reconstituted within him. Instead of having a holy nature without sin, he had a sin nature. What this means is that Adam was now predisposed to rebellion. It says that this DNA has been passed to every single one of us. That's why you don't have to teach your children to lie. They just know how to lie. They just say no. They're born selfish.

In fact, there's been some folks who have written about this that if a child, in all of their intensity, in all of their anger, in all of their selfishness, when they're little babies, when they're mad or when they're wet or when they're dirty or when they're hungry or when they're tired, that if you could infuse the full strength and muscular power of an adult into that baby, that the baby would reach up, grab mom around the neck, and say, "I want more." Babies are innocent looking and yet there is a spiritual need within the Bible says. This is true of every one of us. David says of himself in Psalm 51 verse five, he says, "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." Every single child needs a savior. Every single child needs Jesus.

One day, Jesus, when he was on the earth, before he went to the cross to die for our sin and rise from the dead, he was hanging out with a bunch of people. One day, he had a bunch of his disciples or maybe even all of them. Then, there was a huge crowd. There was people. They had kids. Moms and dads, they started to bring their little babies, their infants and toddlers, up to Jesus. It says so that he would touch them. Just touch my baby. Just touch him. Look at him. Look at her. Suddenly, the disciples, they turn into the bouncers. Jesus didn't ask them to do this, but they like turned their hat around backwards so they get all up into people's face, like, "What are you doing?" It says that they began to rebuke these moms and dads for bringing their kids up to Jesus to have him touch them. You know what Jesus says? Jesus responds to them. He goes, "Look, you guys are stopping them in the name of important things are happening here."

I can see like just imagine what these disciples, what must have come out of their mouth for the Bible to interpret what they said as they rebuked the parents? Probably something like, "Now, look. Significant things are happening here. Big things are happening are here. Adult things, spiritual things are happening here. You need to get these kids out of here. They're a distraction to the significant things that are happening." Jesus comes in and he goes, "No, no, no. Let the children come to me. Let them come to me. Do not hinder them for it is such belongs the kingdom of God." You see what he just said? He said, "My kingdom is custom built for kids." If you want to get in, you got to be like them. The sincerity and the simplicity of their faith is the necessary ingredient to enter so don't get in their way. Be like them. You have to come.

You see kids of all ages in this room. I want you to know that if you will believe in Jesus Christ and repent of your sin that you will be forgiven of your sin. The Bible says that Jesus, after this, went to a cross in order to die for our sin. He was then buried and he rose from the dead, inviting every single person to believe in him. If we admit, acknowledge, "I can not save myself," and we believe in Jesus and say, "Jesus, I believe you can save me because you're the Son of God," and if we confess him as Lord of our life, the Bible says that we will be forgiven of our sin. It says that we will also be brought, literally adopted into his family. Now, what's the point? The point is this. Joining his family is the first step to health in yours. This is true of moms and dads and kids, everybody. Coming to Jesus's family, that's the point of life, is the very first step to finding health in yours. Jesus invites children to come to Jesus.

The second thing we see here in Ephesians is that God commands children to honor their parents. Now, he begins not with honor, but with obedience. It's interesting that he does this. He says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right." Now, we all know that it's right. Every single one of us sees when children disobey. We naturally look and go, "That's not right." Every culture and every land, throughout all time, there is something literally etched into the conscious and the soul of all humanity that looks at a little child, and when a little child rebels against mom and dad, we all look and we say, "That's not right." I mean, think about it this way. Let's just say that someone in the very back corner, little family back here. They got a little kid and the little kid starts yelling right now. Right now, they just start yelling. We can all hear mom and dad go, "Shh, you got to stop. Shh, not now. Not now. Now now." Suddenly, child gets a little bit more enraged and so they throw the Bible at somebody. They stand up and they run out of the row.

Now, mom and dad are chasing them. They go all the way down, down the back here. Mom and dad are going, "Come back here. Come back here. You got to come here. You got to stop." We're all looking. All of a sudden, the child makes it all the way up. They come over. They slam into the drums. They take this little guitar. They slam it on the ground, and they do a cannonball into the baptistry. What would we think at that very moment? Well, first of all, we'd go, "That's the most memorable thing that we got today. That was it. That's the only thing I'm going to remember a year from now." The other thing we would all do is say, "That wasn't right." We may also buy mom and dad a little mocha, a little back rub, and say, "It's going to be okay. It's okay. We still love you. We still love him." The fact though is that every single one of us knows that's wrong. We know it instinctively. Jesus knows it as well. Paul knows Jesus knows this and that's why Paul writes in another book. He says, "Children, obey your parents in everything for this pleases the Lord." Jesus was obedient to his parents and he's pleased when we're obedient when we're little to our parents.

Now, however, Paul knows the world is messed up. He knows that things are broken. He knows that families are fractured. He knows that some kids have to choose between obeying mom and dad and obeying Jesus because mom and dad are instructing things that violate Jesus's word. He knows that it's not a perfect place. What he has here is he has something that is written on the heart of every single person. That is that it's important for little children to obey their parents, but he can also think of scenarios, like every single one of us can, to where it may be the best interest of the child not to obey their parent because in obeying the parent, they would be disobeying God if the parent was evil enough to instruct them to sin against God. It happens in the world every day.

He's looking for something. He has something of value that's held in a cardboard box. He's at the beach. Everywhere, it's sand and it's wet. He knows he can't put it down anywhere. Obey. Suddenly, he sees and he looks over into the distance and there's these 10 foundational pillars. They're called the 10 commandments. There, he remembers that the fifth one says, "Honor your father and your mother, that it may go well with you and you live long in the land." Now, what's he doing here? This is so important that you understand this because, if not, you're never going to be able to distinguish honor from all the ways that you seek to honor them. In a broken family, you can honor and there's other things that you may not be able to do like obey.

You'll be really confused if you don't understand there's a difference between these. Watch this.

He runs to Exodus 20:12, the fifth commandment. Now, each of these 10 commandments, they're a little different from the other instructions in the Bible in that there's absolutely nothing about them that are cultural. They're moral absolutes for every culture, for every person, for all time. It is always the right thing to honor your father and mother. It is never the right thing to bow down before an idol. It doesn't matter what culture, doesn't matter. When God is framing, when he's choosing 10 commandments that literally every culture, every society can be built upon, he says, "Honor your father and your mother." You see, God knew that some kids would grow up with unstable parents. In the 10 commandments, he doesn't say trust your parents. God knew that some kids would grow up with foolish parents and so he never says admire your parents. He even knows that some kids will grow up with evil, unbelieving parents. In the 10 commandments, he doesn't say obey your parents. No, God commanded honor.

Honor can be given to any parent even when you can't trust, admire, or obey. Honor is a decision to treat our parents with loyalty and respect. For most of us in this room, for sure, is that our parents are not instructing us to sin. If you're a little child, the correct application to how you honor them when you're a little person is that you obey them. Only in the case of your parent specifically asking you to sin against God would you even, as a child, say, "I can't do that. I could still honor you in how I'm going to talk to you about how I'm not going to do that, but I can't do that." What are some other areas? Paul gives us the foundation, which is honor your father and your mother. He gives little children one application, which is to obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. What are some other things for the rest of us, other ways that we honor our father and mother? What are some other applications? I want to give you five of them.

The first is this. Let's show honor by forgiving them. We show honor, we confer honor by forgiveness. You see, every single parent is imperfect. Every parent has hurt their children, whether through their impatience or through their rudeness or through their selfishness, their rashness or their words or their looks or their actions. Every single one of us, we can remember when a parent did something that was wrong, when their actions splashed up against us. Every parent in the room can remember times when our actions sinfully splashed up on our kids. There's a problem there because we need to reconcile. There's a lot of people, maybe even in the room right now, say, "I just can not forgive. I don't want a relationship with my parents." That's a really difficult thing. You see, what forgiveness does in a broken relationship is it confers honor by saying, "I still want to relate to you." We honor our parents by extending grace so that the relationship can continue. You have to understand that forgiveness doesn't always make things new. It doesn't mean that you now admire them or even that you now trust them or you trust their words. What it does do is it releases the anger and it confers honor.

We have a hard time releasing our anger because, for a lot of us, somebody's done something to us. We feel it. We respond to that feeling in such ways that they create patterns. If we were ever to give up the anger of that behavior to us, we would have nothing to hold onto that explains our patterns, patterns that are literally shaping our life and even future generations. Some of us would rather just choose to have no relationship with our parent whatsoever than to release that anger and confer honor upon them to say, "You're still important to me. You failed, but you're still important. I want to honor you." Jesus says to us forgive. Paul writes it down in chapter four verse 32 when he says, "Forgive one another as Christ has forgiven you." If you think back to the last point, when Jesus is king of the home and we are imitating his life, the family thrives. Think of how many times Jesus has forgiven you. He's released the anger and he's conferred honor upon you and me by saying, "I still want a relationship with you." We take what we've received and we give it to our parents. In doing so, we honor them even in their imperfection.

The second thing or the second way that we can show honor is by including them. You see, if you're an adult and your parents are wise, they will stop giving you instructions to obey. Now, we don't necessarily know the age when that happens. "You must go to bed right now. Get up now," but my mom didn't call me last night and say, "Go to bed." For many of us, that didn't happen for you either. However, even though they stop giving instructions to obey, they still long to stay connected. You look at a picture like this. Grandpa doesn't have to be invited. Maybe this is a vacation. Maybe it's just a day at the park. Maybe he's the one who started it, but here's my point. We honor our parents by inviting them into our lives. Even if they live far away, we call them and we say, "I want to invite you into what's happening in my life. We're about to buy a house. So-and-so is going to go to this school." We're telling them what's happening in our life. We're inviting them to participate. We may be even inviting them on a vacation or to invite them to our house or to invite them into a big decision that we're making, to invite them to pray. We honor our parents by including them.

The third way that we can honor them, to show honor, is speaking highly of them. Every single one of us know that our words, they become the invitation for others to think in one direction or another about who we're talking about, including our parents. Our words become the window that someone else can look into to learn something about a person that you're talking about. What do you say about your parents in the presence of other people? Are you giving them a window to think highly of your parents or to think lowly of your parents? It's an interesting thing because our parents are imperfect. There's lots of stories that we could tell. The fact is though is that even if they were really, really bad parents, there's still something that we can find that's noble and say, "They were made in the image of God. That's all I got for you." Well, go there. There's some nobility there. There's honor that's there. We can all tell stories that just defame and push down our parents. Our kids can all tell stories that defame and push us down.

You see, it's interesting that when ... Obviously my role in my job might be a little bit different than yours in that I tell stories a lot to try to help you to understand something of the scripture, but you may not have recognized this, but in 20 years of doing this, there has never been a time that I've told a story to where Tabitha was the bad person in the story. You may not have noticed that, but that's intentional. It's not that she's perfect. It's that I want to confer honor. I want you to think highly of her. It's the same thing with my parents. The fact is that I had good parents, really good parents. They loved me and they were faithful, but they weren't perfect parents. It's interesting that there's a decision that we can make to tell other people about our parents and what we choose is going to shape other people's appreciation of who they are as a person. One way to honor them is to speak highly of them. If they were a horrible parent, you're not lying by simply saying, "They're an image bearer of God."

The fourth way that we can honor our parents, to show honor, is by communicating with them, to communicate, talking and listening. Both talking and listening takes effort. It takes creativity. It takes attention and also takes sacrifice. There's something else that we can be doing at that time. As we age, it's important for us to understand that listening does not mean that we must obey their words. Some of you, it's like your parents are so controlling even as an adult that, "I can't even talk to them because they're always trying to control." You can be the filter in that though and even confer honor by talking to them. Then what you can do is simply this. Listening is simply showing respect for the lessons that they think that they've learned and considering if their findings apply to our life. Keep in mind that even the lousiest parent knows a lot. There's always something that we can learn. When we take the time to call them, when we take the time to write them, when we take the time to sit down and talk to them, it confers honor to them. It's a blessing.

The last thing is this. Let's show honor by supporting them. You see, one of the things about life that you learn the older you get is that life is terribly humbling. You see, we begin totally dependent upon our parents. We come out. We've got no clothes on. We're cold. We're little. We need a blanket. We eat soft foods. We wear a diaper. We just look at the other side of the room and just long to get over there. How can I get over there? I have no ability to get over there. The sad thing, for most of us, is that's pretty much how life ends. We're cold and just wish I could get over. Waking up at two in the morning, it's hard. It's humbling. You see, as we grow up and become more independent from our parents, our parents grow old and become more dependent upon us. Let me just give you a few thoughts here.

The first thing is I would encourage you to respect your parents' age. They earned every one of them. I would encourage you not to mock their limitations or the wear and tear upon their body, some of which came from sacrificing for you. It's interesting, at a low point in David's life, he wrote in Psalm 71 verse nine, this is what he said. He said, "Do not cast me off in the time of old age. Forsake me not when my strength is spent." You see what he's saying? Like most aging parents, he feared being old and alone. I don't have these on the screen, but there's four very specific ways I can think of that you can support your parents as they age. The first is this, is we support our parents by protecting their dignity.

As you get old, you go to places that don't always think about their dignity, whether it's a nursing home or a hospital. Their body, their mind, their things, they may not have the ability or the capacity to protect their own dignity and so they rely upon you. This is an opportunity for you to continue to confer honor upon them by protecting their dignity.

The second thing is like you see in this picture, is to give them assurance that we will not forsake them when they get old. Sit down, maybe to hold their hands, young hands and old hands, and say, "I want you to know I'm going to take care of you. I'm not going to forsake you." It's a way that we show honor and supporting them. Third is by protecting their essential joys. Every person has a joy. You need to find what your parents' is. It may be that when you pick up the phone. They call. Have you ever thought that when they call, when you pick up the phone is the highlight of their whole day? You look at it, "I don't have time to talk right now." Well, that's an essential joy. It's something that's important to them. It may be art. I don't know what it is, but it's an opportunity to identify what is it in this life that makes them happy and to protect that essential joy.

The last thing is by providing for them and their basic needs, to provide for their basic needs. 1 Timothy chapter five verse four, he says that we as children have an obligation to basically return the favor that, as our parents provided everything for us for many, many, many years, we get to the place at the end to where we have the privilege to provide for them at the end of their years. God has called us to come to Jesus. He's called us to honor our parents. The third thing is this. God calls children to prepare to lead the next generation of families. This is that Proverbs passage that I read, Proverbs chapter four, when he says, "Hear, O sons, a father's instructions. Be attentive that you may gain insight. For I give you good precepts. Do not forsake my teaching." Now, where did he learn all this stuff? Verse three, "When I was a son with my father, tender and the only one on the side of my mother, he taught me." This is the pattern that you find here. Solomon is giving instruction that he first heard because his dad, David, instructed him when he was little.

Both of these dads are practicing exactly what the law of Moses said, which was, "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, all of our soul, and all of your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you get up." You see, God's plan is for one generation to prepare the next generation to lead the next generation. It's like passing a baton that falls to the children who are next in line. Right now, those of you who are children, you have the most strength, you have the most energy. When you get the baton from the parent who's winded, they're at the end, the grandparent is like, "Someone else has to run," you have to understand in all of your strength and in all of your energy, one day you are to be a parent and one day you will be the grandparent. You have an obligation right now to prepare yourself to look at Biblical manhood and womanhood and marriage and sexuality and singleness and fatherhood and motherhood and to say, "I want to emulate the best of what I see. I want to learn how to become these things. I don't want the baton to be placed in my hand and for me to drop it."

What happens when one generation collectively drops this ball? Judges chapter two verse 10 says, “There arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.” Judges is, to me, it’s the worst book in the whole Bible if you’re looking for encouragement on how to live. It is a devastation of a book that simply says this is what happens when there’s no king in the home, when there’s no king in the country, and when there’s no king of Jesus in our heart and everyone’s doing what is right in their own eyes. This is what the family has built. God created building blocks to be built up so that the last generation becomes the first generation of the next family and families continue to perpetuate themselves one after next for the glory of God. Kids, you are next in line. What you do in preparing for this baton is absolutely critical. If you do not have a model to follow in your own home, Jesus can give you what is needed in order to build again, to start a new legacy. We, as your church family, we want to be able to help you.

I have one final application that really covers the entire series that we’ve talked about over the last seven weeks. It’s this. Providence, let’s agree with God about our families in order to point people to his family. Let’s agree with God about our families, everything that we’ve learned, everything that he said about families, in order to point people to his family. You see, as much as we desire health in our own family, we need to remember that God has built the family specifically to point to his family. I know this may sound strange, but your family’s not the point of this deal. Oh, it’s important, but it’s not the point. The point is his family. You see, if you want to see what God’s doing in the world, this is what he says he’s doing. Habakkuk 2:14 says, “The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” This is his plan.

He wants the knowledge of his glory to literally fill the hearts of every country and every city and every heart throughout the entire world just as the water covers the whole sea. He desires for his fame to be spread to the ends of the earth. This is his master plan and this is why he created the family. It wasn’t simply to give us encouragement, to give us instruction, though all of that is true, but all of that encouragement and all of that instruction and all of that leadership and all of that protection and all of that provision and all of that pleasure, all of it is pointed and directed specifically to help other people say, “Do you see what all of this is about? It’s about his family. It’s about coming to Jesus Christ.” You see, knowing God and being reconciled to his family is what manhood and womanhood and singleness and marriage and sexuality and motherhood and fatherhood and childhood is all about. I urge you, church family, to embrace the truths that we have read in God’s word. Let’s build healthy families that, in time, perpetuate other healthy families. Let’s do it all as part of the rescue mission that God is on to bring people into his family. Let’s pray together.

Father in heaven, we thank you for your love for us. We thank you for your mercy that's been poured out to us. We confess to you once again, God, that our families are not perfect and we know they never will be. We thank you that your grace is stronger still. I pray that in the areas that we've looked at today that you would give clarity and insight to each of our hearts in knowing what to do with this, how to apply it. I pray, Father, now as your word tells us, God, that you desire for your glory, the knowledge of your glory to literally fill up the entire earth. That is our aim. That is why we had 100 people on the stage this morning, God. That is why we give to you now in order to use these moneys as a propellant to take this gospel to the ends of the earth. That is why we sing to you now. It's because, Jesus Christ, you are worthy. You are worthy of our life. You are worthy of our love. We thank you for adopting us into your family. God, would you do the miracle in our life of helping us to believe and respond in faith? We pray all of this in Jesus's name. Amen.



© 2018 Providence Baptist Church (Raleigh, NC)
Sermon transcripts may be used for preaching and teaching purposes, but may not be published or sold. While generally accurate, parts of this transcript may contain errors.
Providence reserves the right to correct and/or remove a transcript at any time.