

What to do when?

“What to when your Family is Under Attack”

“What to do to prevent your family from falling apart”

We are living in a generation in which the family foundations are cracking under the pressure of the anti-bible/anti-Christ culture.

- So many parents and grandparents don't know what to do.

Psalm 11:3-4 ESV if the foundations are destroyed, what can the **righteous** do?" **4 The Lord** is in his holy temple... *(the righteous are those who are right with God.)*

- There is a tidal wave of wickedness sweeping the land. And it is slamming against the foundations of our families.

There are many families that find themselves at the **crossroads of culture**. What path are they going to take for their family?

Jeremiah 6:16 NET **The Lord said** to his people: "You are standing at the crossroads. So, consider your path. Ask where the old, (ancient) reliable paths are. Ask where the path is that leads to blessing and follow it. If you do, you will find rest for your souls." ----- **But they said**, "We will **not** follow it!"

- I find this verse so appropriate today because many who claim to be righteous are turning **away from the reliable paths of life**.
- The world says **the old ways are NOT reliable**... God says **they are reliable and lead to blessing and rest for your souls**.

**Please understand that the world is trying to redefine what God created.**

**Culture trying to build a new foundation of life by redefining: **gender, marriage, sexuality and family values.****

People ask me all the time... what do you think Pastor Ron? What is your opinion?

Its not my opinion that counts. **It's God's opinion that matters to me!**

When I find myself at the crossroads of culture, I'm searching for the ancient, reliable paths that God established and that's direction I'm going.

**Some will say, I think I would rather trust my feelings than trust some ancient book that rambles on about ancient outdated ways to live.**

**In order for relationships to work, we must let the **One who designed them define them.****

Chris Hodges

NTS -Marriage – family – parenting...

But the scripture says **when the foundations are being destroyed what should the righteous do.... THE LORD.**

- Parents look for --- THE LORD
- Husbands/ Wives --- THE LORD
- Find the LORD and the path He designed for us.

There are many different names for God in the Bible. In fact the bible uses metaphors to show us who He is and to teach us His ways. We are going to look at 3 of them today.

- **The Lord is a Rock** - **Psalm 18:2 NLT The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection.**

- **The Lord is a Shepherd** ---- **Ps 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

**John 10:11 NIV** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I will protect them when the wolf pack comes after them.

- **The Lord is a Father**

**2 Corinthians 6:17,18 NLT 17** Therefore, **come out** from among unbelievers, and **separate yourselves** from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. **18** And **I will be your Father**, and you will be my sons and daughters, says **the Lord Almighty.**

**What to do when the foundations of your family is under attack.**

### **Build on the Rock**

**Matthew 7:24-27** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its **foundation** on the rock. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

- 1) **Jesus promises serious difficulties at some point, are going to visit a household.**

Its gonna rain.... The wind is going to blow... the rivers are going to flood!

- a) **Wise builders build for the worse case scenarios.**
- b) **The drainage ditch and retention pond in the back seemed excessively big too me. I just didn't think it would take that much to drain the rain water off of our property. The city engineer told me Pastor, we are not building for a rain, we are building it for a flood.**

- 2) **Jesus promises total security and success to those who obey His Word.**

"everyone who **hears these words** of mine and **puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

**Am I going to build my life on what I think or what God thinks?**

I was talking to military man about his family the other days... I tried the church thing... I heard so many sermons on marriage and family and today I am divorced and my kids won't talk to me.

There are 2 parts to this promise... **Hearing the words and putting them into practice.** (that's the hard part)

### **Foundations fail because of a lack of follow through!**

3) **Jesus promises failure to every person and family that disobeys His Word.**

a) **Why would anyone build a house on the sand?**

i) Its more comfortable.

(1) When you lay down on the **sand** and get up **it looks like you**. When you lay down on the **rock** and **get up you look like it**. The rock imprints upon you,

▪ Sand conforms to you, **the rock does not.**

▪ If you choose to live on the rock of God's word you and your children will find themselves in conflict with the culture of the day.

(2) But Jesus says, **want you to conform to me, I am not conforming to you.**

ii) The sand is more popular.

(1) **But the most popular path is not the best path.**

People love the beach! Murfreesboro loves the Florida beaches. We see church people almost every time we go.

**Luke 7:13,14 NIV For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**

b) **It takes effort to build a house on a rock.**

i) **Think about the generational effects of your family values and plan accordingly.** Takes some intentional thoughts.

(1) What are our children and grandchildren going to get from us?

(2) How are we going to raise our kids and influence our grandchildren?

(3) What is it that I can impart that will bring the blessing and bring them into rest?

ii) **Four Foundational Structures for Family Success.** (4 points on this slide)

Are you dealing with a cracked foundation?

(1) **Establish the Lordship of Christ is the highest priority.** (our decisions fall under His Lordship)

(2) **Obedience to His Word even when it's hard and unpopular.**

- (a) Kerri and I made a decision along time ago that the Bible was going to be the final authority in our house.
- (i) When we put it into practice we were blessed and found our rest. When we compromised we found UNREST.
- (b) Make the Word the final authority of our decisions.
- (i) God doesn't bless good ideas He blesses His ideas. He doesn't bless good decisions he blesses obedient decisions.
- (ii) This means we have to seek the Word. Let the word shape our family decisions.
1. How we spend our money.
  2. Who we allow our children to have as friends.
  3. What we allow to be accessed online.

These are costly uncomfortable decisions.

(3) A Culture of Family **Forgiveness**.

**Refuse to Hold Grudges**. Resolve conflict fast, don't ignore it.

- Learn to say I'm sorry when you were wrong.
- Learn to receive the apology and move on from it.

Live by the Word and not your Feelings. Put it into practice.

(4) **Faith** for the Family' Future.

Faith in God  
 Faith in prayer  
 Faith in one another.

## Follow the Shepherd

Let God Shepherd Your Family - The Lord is my Shepherd

- 1) **Sheep are Pathetic Animals**. (Jimmy Evans, great teacher for the family)
- a) They can't navigate... **homing sheep**? Lack direction... tend to wander.
- b) They can't carry things... **packing sheep**? Lack Provision... they have to be led to good pasture.
- c) They can't protect themselves... **heard of an attack sheep**? They need Protection... the wolf is present

Isaiah 53:6 NKJV All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

We all tend to wander, we often graze in unhealthy pasture, we are not strong enough in our own strength to fend off the wolf pack. WE NEED THE SHEPHERD!

2) **Has your family gotten off the reliable path?**

**So many of us come from families of failure. Generational failure after failure... pain, dysfunction and lost. I don't want that for my children and grandchildren.**

Psalm 23:1-6 NKJV **The Lord** is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He **leads** me beside the still waters. **He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness** for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

There is too much to cover here in this beautiful description of our relationship with Jesus so I will pull out two things.

a) **He Loves to Lead.** Stop wandering.

b) **He Loves to Restore.**

There is a great need for some restoration of family relationships in this place today!

Let the Lord shepherd you out of the pain!

It might seem like a lost cause to you... but you need faith for your family!

What's your next step? visit with a pastor? Let's find a counseling plan? Do the work, dig a new foundation.

*Build on the Rock... The Lord is my Rock  
Follow the Shepherd... The Lord is my Shepherd*

*The Lord is my Father...*

## **Trust in the Father**

**One last thing...** we are talking about cracked foundations... attacks on family. One of the most severe issues families are facing is financial pressure.

In the current economic condition is troubling. Inflation: gas, food, housing.

Matthew 6:24-32 NKJV No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Mammon is the money god.

Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. **For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**"

- 1) Money makes for a poor foundation.
- 2) Mammon is the money god that promises you security, identity and purpose. Everything God promises to provide, money tries to provide without any sense of righteousness.
- 3) If you do not have a trusting relationship with God as your Father, you will have a wrong relationship with money.
  - a) Money is not evil and the righteous should steward it well. But it makes for a poor foundation.
  - b) When a family chooses mammon over God, the result is generational pain.

John 2:15-17 NKJV Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father** is not in him.
  - c) My faith is the economy of God and not in the economy of the world.

**You are at a Crossroads find the Path that leads you back to the Father.**

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