

Strong Families - cont.

(Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15,17). Does your family engage in this kind of training?

Ties That Bind

The fifth trait of a strong family is the spiritual strength that comes from spending enjoyable time together. When members of the family have positive interaction with each other it builds close bonds and ties (Proverbs 4:10-11; 5:15ff; 23:26). They try to avoid excessive activities that separate and suffocate family ties (Proverbs 27:8). Does your family spend time together?

Strong Defenses

The last trait of a strong family is spiritual strength that comes by building defenses. Righteous principles help us overcome life's difficulties (Proverbs 24:10,16) and spiritually healthy families pull together in times of crisis (Proverbs 4:18-19; 17:17). Does your family defend each other from worldly harm?

God wrote the manual on strong families. Let us build in ourselves and our children the strength it takes to make it to heaven! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Marriage must be maintained in order to be permanent.
- Some people have 20/20 vision only when they are spotting the faults of others.
- Rumors are one thing that get thicker as you spread them.
- Goodness is an investment that always pays good dividends.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Six Traits of Strong Families

The condition of many families in our society and around the world is very weak and fragile. The Devil and the ways of the world are working overtime to break down the family. Let us consider some of the Bible proverbs in this article that demonstrate six traits of strong families. These traits in the family will be a defense against those forces that seek to destroy it.

We continually hear of family breakdown in the world. The wise Solomon once said, “He that troubles his house shall inherit the wind...” Proverbs 11:29. Many trouble their homes which leads to a breakdown. Some breakdown is due to inner weakness. Some breakdown is due to outward pressure. But, God gives us the wisdom to build strong families. We can have a “house of the righteous” (Proverbs 3:33; 12:7; 14:1,11).

Faith in God

The first trait of a strong family is spiritual strength that comes from faith. They all have faith in God. They focus on God in the home (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 15:16). They engage in Bible reading on a regular basis (Proverbs 2:1-5; 23:23,26). They pray together on a regular basis (Proverbs 15:8,29).

They worship together on a regular basis. Does your family have the spiritual strength that comes from faith in God?

Inward Character

The second trait of a strong family is spiritual strength that comes from the application of God's word that leads to a noble character. The man of the house has an honorable character (Proverbs 20:29; 27:21; 29:3). The lady of the house has an



honorable character (Proverbs 11:16; 12:4; 19:13-14; 31:10ff). And, the children in the house have an honorable character (Proverbs 10:1; 13:1; 15:5,20; 28:7). Does your family have honorable character?

Love Within the Family

The third trait of a strong family is spiritual strength that comes from commitment. Each member in the family has a

love for one another's welfare (Proverbs 10:12; 15:17; 30:23).

Each member in the family tries to stay away from those things that tear down. They avoid selfishness that destroys family life (Proverbs 12:15). They avoid harsh or critical words (Proverbs 12:8; 15:4; 17:1; 21:9,19) and angry words tear down (Proverbs 15:1-2,14,17,28).

Each member in the family also tries to engage in those things that build up. They give heart-felt appreciation, affection, and praise (Proverbs 4:3-4; 23:24-25; 25:11). They speak good words that will build up (Proverbs 15:23; 18:13,20-21). The children also show love for their parents (Proverbs 19:26; 20:20; 23:22-25; 30:11,17). Is your family committed to each other?

Discipline in the Home

The fourth trait of a strong family is spiritual strength that comes from training. The parents engage in instructive discipline when they teach their children proper principles to live by (Proverbs 3:11-12; 13:1; 15:5; 19:18; 22:6). The parents also engage in corrective discipline - corporal punishment - when their children misbehave