



# WEEKLY SERMON

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**Sunday** November 5, 2023

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**Message:** The Christian Family

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**Text:** Psalm 122:1, I Timothy 3:15, Hebrews 10:25

Friends, Christian ones, are among the very choicest of the Lord's blessings. Some folks are acquaintances, but they never make room for your friendship. I've been blessed beyond words because of the friendships I've enjoyed through the years.

1. **Friends** are those special people whose love is undeterred by distance or by long lapses of time.
2. **Friends** are the ones who pray for you even when there is not a crisis.
3. **Friends** are there for you when you do have a special burden or great need.
4. **Friends** are unashamed to be your friend even when others are piling on unrelenting criticism.
5. **Friends** are not going to justify your wrongs or make excuse for your failure, but neither do they turn on you when you err.
6. **Friends** are not intimidated by bullies and other would-be intimidators.
7. **Friends** do not base the relationship on money or the lack of it.
8. **Friends** are gentle when they criticize, correct or coach.
9. **Friends** take the initiative instead of waiting for you to think of everything.
10. **Friends** are encouragers. They write thank-you notes. They even call on the phone sometimes.
11. **Friend's** don't base the friendship on their own personal whims, fancies or agendas.
12. **Friends** don't expect you to do everything they want, when they want, as they want it.
13. **Friends** are people of principle instead of preference.
14. **Friends** are, when all is said and done, your friends. They are a delight. Such people, warm, gracious, loving, giving and forgiving, respect you for who you are.
15. **Friends** are the ones still standing when the battle ends.
16. **Friends** are such a special breed, absolutely priceless, incredible allies.

And, of course, there are scriptural considerations here too, such as:

**First: Be concerned about being a friend, not in having a friend.** In Proverbs 18:24 we read, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly..."

**Second: "A friend loves at all times."** In Proverbs 17:17 we read, "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

**Third: "A friend wounds."** In **Proverbs 27:6** we read, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

**Fourth: "A friend counsels."** In **Proverbs 27:9** we read, "Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel."

**Fifth: "A friend sacrifices."** In **John 15:13** we read, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." I well realize this verse has reference to the Lord Jesus. However the principle can apply to us a "**Friend will sacrifice for a friend.**"

The very contemplation of the concept of friendship brings to mind specific names and faces of some very special people.

If you're short on friends, I hope you will set your sights on getting that corrected.  
If you're uncertain of a friendship, don't sulk; reach out.  
If you've found friendship difficult to acquire and/or maintain, give of yourself and be friendly, whether or not you receive in return.  
If someone chooses not to be your friend, he is probably making other poor choices as well, and chances are very good he may soon need a friend just like you.

We who are saved by God's grace have, as Proverbs 18:24 tells us, one "**friend that sticketh closer than a brother.**" On Him we can always rely. In Him there is no disappointment. With Him we are confident. By Him we are encouraged and enriched. Amen!

In *His* Amazing Grace  
Pastor David Miklas

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### Something to think About this week

**Watch your thoughts; they become words.  
Watch your words; they become actions.  
Watch your actions; they become habits.  
Watch your habits; they become character.  
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.**

The writer of the above statement must have read the words of Solomon found in Proverbs 23:7, "**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.**" Our thoughts reflect the person we really are. If we have thoughts which are hateful, they will manifest themselves as words--actions--habits. If, however, we fill our hearts with positive things, can anything but good actions result?

The Apostle Paul summed it up rightly when he wrote in Philippians 4:8, "**Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise--think on these things.**" Think about "**these things.**" If we occupy our time on thoughts concerning "**these things**", it cannot help but result in an eternal destiny with God the Father. **We are what we think!**

# “The Importance of Church in the life of Your Children”

Introduction: Question, what are our children going to be like, and be engaged in spiritually during the 20th century?

In Isaiah 54:13 we read, "**And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD, and great shall be the peace of the children.**" Here we are instructed to teach our children spiritual truths.

In II John verse 4 we read, "**I rejoice greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.**" The Truth here refers to the "Word of God"

This same truth is present to us in the III John verse 4 where we read, "**I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.**" What a heritage, knowing that our children raised in our homes are found "**walking in The Truth.**"

Parents and for that matter grandparents, I rejoice greatly when I hear of your children walking in truth, walking in the principles, precepts and commandments of the Word of God. On the other hand, it hurts when I here of children who are no longer walking with the Lord and in the House of God. How can this come about?

**First: Lay Truth before your Child:** Teach them the reverence for the Word of God. Teach them the Fear of God in their lives. Demonstrate godliness before them by your example of life. Often what you do before them in your walk is far more powerful then what you say to them.

**Second: Commit your child to the Lord.** Remember from Psalm 127:3 "**Lo children are an heritage from the Lord...**" They are God's gift not play toys loaned to us, to be trained by us for His glory.

**Third: Remember one day they will leave our home and God will take up where you leave off.** God will take up either in blessing them or in disciplining them. Take great comfort in Proverbs 22:6, "**Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old, he will not depart from it.**"

Now the question "**how should we train them so they will be walking in "The Truth."**" Let me share with you 3 ways. Two of these will be very brief the third very extensive.

**First: If your want to have your children "walking in the truth" TEACH THEM TO HAVE REVERENCE FOR GOD.** Every child has the capacity for God awareness and a spiritual desire to **KNOW GOD.**

**Teach them** God make the universe and all it's grander. Show them the wonders of God's creation which all belongs to Him. And for that we are to Praise and worship Him for His Creation.

**Teach them** the wonders of Life as you study with them Psalms 139. Teach them they came from God and as such they belong to God and one day they will give an account to God for their life.

**Teach them** to have a fear of God, a fear of His holiness, a fear of sin and its consequences, a reverent fear of disobedience to His Word.

**Teach them** to love the Lord their God with all there heart; with all their mind, and with all strength.

**Teach them** how to develop a scheduled quit time with the Lord. Show them how to read their Bible and Meditate in the scriptures

**Teach them** how to develop a prayer list, and to spend time in praise unto the Lord for answers to prayer.

**Second: If your want to have your children "walking in the truth" TEACH THEM TO HAVE REVERENCE FOR THE WORD OF GOD.**

**Teach them** the Word of God is a SPECIAL Book, a HOLY Book written by God for them. It ought

to have a promenade place in the home and demonstrated in your lives.

**Teach them** the reverent fear for the Word of God.

**Teach them** Bible stories and as you do teach them principles of life.

**Teach them** to memorize scripture. If I had it to do over again with our children, I would have had them memorize whole chapters in the Bible instead of just individual verses.

**Teach them** the reverence of the word of God and you will have passed on to them a spiritual heritage that will always go with them and keep them wherever they go.

**THIRD: If your want to have your children "walking in the truth" TEACH THEM REVERENCE FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD.** Psalms 122:1 says, "I was glade when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord." Children grow up to attach importance to the things that are important to their parents.

In **Like 4:16** we read of Jesus, "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and, as His custom was, He went INTO THE SYNAGOGUE on the SABBATH DAY, and stood up for to read." Listen, if the synagogue had such an important part in the life of Jesus, the Son of God, how much more do our children need the New Testament church!

Someone said, "The church is the family's best friend and its confines should be the child's second home."

The one tool God has used through the centuries and will use until Jesus returns is **HIS CHURCH**. The church is the one place where the spiritual life of an individual can be nurtured.

Admittedly, the church is not perfect, but it is the tool created especially by God to reach the world for Christ and it is indispensable to a Christian and his family.

Let me remind you the church is not the four walls of this building. The church of Jesus Christ is made up of **BLOOD-BOUGHT SAVED BAPTIZED** people. So **why DO I love the Church?**

**First: Because Christ loved the Church** as we read in Ephesians 5:25-28. As Christ loved the Church, so I love the church.

**Second: Because it has been here that I have made life time friendships.** Over the years my dearest friends have come from the Halthrope Community Church, the Overlea Baptist Church, the Perry Hall Baptist Church, the Cherrydale Baptist Church, the Odenton Baptist Church, I pastored for 23 years, the Grace Bible Baptist Church, the Arlington Baptist church the Foot of Ten Bible Church, the High Point Baptist Chapel, the Wagontown Union Chapel, the Green Street Baptist Chapel I pastored for the last 15 ½ years and now the Trinity Baptist Church in Lititz, PA.

**Third: Because my life's decisions have been made at the church.** I can honestly say the church is not my job it has become my life.

Here are **11 suggestions** on teaching your children or grandchildren the importance of the House of God.

**First: Teach them the importance of the church by example.** There should be no discussion on any Sunday for Sunday school, for the morning service or Sunday evening, or Wednesday night as to whether or not the family will be going to church. It should be understood that this is a Christian family and we are attending church regularly. And by the way this is a family affair not just for the youngsters or for one parent. All the family should march into the house of God and sit together in the House of God.

Leaving Sunday school and going home before church or neglecting the evening service or any service is a poor testimony to the children. They are being programmed to think "Oh, well if it isn't important to them, why should it be important to me."

When I was growing up we took it for granted that:

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** was a time to teach the Word of God  
**MORNING SERVICE** was a time to hear the preaching of the Word of God  
**EVENING SERVICE** was a time of fellowship and preaching,  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING** was for Bible Study and praying.

You ought to build the right habits of being here for every service, and you should maintain that habit at all cost. Say to the children that you we have a standing appointment with the God of Heaven and the people of God every time the church doors are open.

You say forcing a child to attend the church services will turn him against the church one day. No my friend, it is the **HYPOCRISY** in the home that makes a **SHALLOW MOCKERY OF THE CHURCH**. There should be no question concerning Sunday school Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening or any other special service. **TEACH THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH BY EXAMPLE.**

**Second: Start preparation on Saturday night.** Begin to prepare for the Lord's Day on Saturday evening. Prepare for Sunday like it was a very important day, and it is, for it's the Lord's Day, and we are going to worship the Lord of Lord's the King of Kings. We are going to be in fellowship with other believer in reverence to our Savior.

This means there should be NO late-night TV or NO late visiting on Saturday evening.

The motto on Saturday should be early to bed early, early to rise, it's the **LORD'S DAY AND WE ARE GOING TO HIS HOME FOR A WHILE.**

Have all the clothes laid out for Sunday and the meal being made ready for Sunday and take time to gather the family around to pray asking God's blessing on His day. When our children were younger, each Saturday evening just before bed time each member of the family would pray for there Sunday School teacher and one other are of the church ministry.

**Third: Never criticize the church, the pastor or the staff before your children:** Remember this, "No church is perfect so if you find the perfect church, don't join it, you'll ruin it!" You are bound to find things wrong with your church. But never criticize it, the pastor, the pastors, the leaders, or the members in **FRONT OF YOUR CHILDREN**. If you have to criticize do it in your prayer closet. Many a thoughtless word of parental criticism against some details have turned children against the whole church. Parents, not the church, are the real losers in a case like this, and so are your children.

The wise parent will see to it that the child develops a close relationship with the pastor. The pastor should become his friend. If your child has a problem, bring him or her to him for council.

O' may I encourage you to take very, very seriously the words of **Hebrew 13:7 and 17**, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. (17) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

**Fourth: Pray for your church, pastor, pastors and staff in the presence of your children.**

**Fifth: Occasionally invite your child's** Sunday school teachers, Christian school teachers, the pastor and his wife, even the youth leaders to your home. Get in line to invite visiting missionaries and visiting guest speakers. Why, you need to keep godly

influences before your family.

**Sixth: Discuss their Sunday School lesson at home thought out the week.**

Encourage your child's work in the C-Clubs and with your teenagers discuss life and life's events in light of the Word of God.

**Seventh: Teach your children the importance of tithing.** Now if you are going to teach the importance of tithing first, you must tithe with **I Corinthians 16:2** in mind, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

You need to understand and teach them what we read from **Malachi 3:10-11**, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (11) And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts." Get them to understand that **one tenth** of what they earn or received belongs to God. Instruct them to put that in the offering plate. It's OK to give them something, but it's far better to encourage them to put their own money in the plate.

Here is something I have said for years, "Don't give your children tipping money, the coins, give them the flat money; the one's, five's, ten's and the twenty's. Remember what you teach them to give now is what they will think is all God is worth later.

Remember God has commanded us **WHEN TO GIVE, THE AMOUNT TO GIVE AND THE PLACE TO GIVE IT.** I believe if every Christian was honest in their giving, there would be no need to plead for funds or would there be any lack of funds to take care of the house of God.

**Eight: Teach your children to be SERVANTS.** Teach them the joy of helping others. Teach them to minister to the sick and the older folks. Take them out soul winning with you. Encourage them to give out tracks everywhere.

**Ninth: Teach them Good church manners:** From **I Timothy 3:15**, we read "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Church time is a time to worship, not a time to play. If they act up immediately take them out. Discipline them to know church time is **NOT** a time to **PLAY AROUND.**

Here are my six simple church manners to teach your children

1. No talking, no chewing gum or leaving
2. Sit up and listen
3. Sing out from the hymn book
4. Quiet during the specials and offering
5. Follow the Preacher in the Bible
6. Take notes on the sermons

Now let me give you my feeling on this. All babies under 3 years old belong in the nursery. All Children above 3rd grade belong in the church services singing and listening to the Word of God being preached. And all teenagers belong in prayer meeting on Wednesday evening.

**Ten: Do not let other activities take priority over the services of the Church.**

- The church services ought to be more importance than school functions.
- The church services ought to be more important than any sports activity.
- The church services ought to have first priority over a picnic outing or a visit to relatives.

The first time you allow any other activity to come ahead of church time **YOU LOOSE.**

The next time it will become easier to miss. Remember, church time is a family affair **NOT FOR ADULTS ONLY WHILE THE CHILDREN STAY HOME.**

I believe it is more important to have your children well for Sunday school on Sunday than to well and ready for Monday school on Monday. But here is what you do; you keep them home on Sunday so they can be well for Monday school. **NO, NO, NO**, you need to keep them home on Friday to get them well for Sunday school. Who are we to seek first, I believe my Bible tell me to seek the things of **GOD FIRST.**

**Eleventh: The Child should build his life around the local church.** As the child grows older we need to give added emphasis to the activities of the church. It has been said;

**A Beginner** child ages 4-5 is 90% dependent upon his parents.

**A Primary** child ages 6-7 is 75% dependent upon his parents

**A Junior** child ages 8-12 is 50% dependent upon his parents

**A Junior High** Student is 25% dependent upon his parents

**A High School** student is 10% dependent upon his parents

Now the wise parent will graciously relinquish the parentage and then run to the church house and aid in the activities to provide that lost percentage the Child is longer dependant upon them for.

As the child grows older, he or she is going to spend more and more time away from home. He will become less dependent upon his parents.

**HE or SHE IS GOING TO GO SOMEWHERE. MAY GOD HELP US TO PROVIDE THROUGH THE CHURCH THE "SOMEWHERE."**

This is the reason we must increase the number of activities and the time consumed by the activities as the children grow older.

By the time one enters high school he or she should be so involved in the activities, that he or she will have **NO** time to run with the **WRONG CROWD**. In addition the child should be taught that **everything** should be done **first class** and **properly.**

**Warning**, there will come a time when the teenager will become un-co-operative and decide "**I am not going.**" Now here me out, **IF YOU GIVE IN, YOU ARE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE.** If they are not there in church, they will drift into the world with worldly friends and activities.

Movements come and movements go, but God's church will still stand. It will be here to carry out God's plan of world evangelism until Jesus comes. Children should be taught to love the House of God and the people of God. Parents and grandparents you are the key to what Psalms 122:1 says, "**I was glade when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord.**"

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If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "**Children OBEDY and HONOR their PARENTS**" then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "**...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**"

Romans 10:13, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**"

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know? Please send an e-mail to, [pdmikBBM@aol.com](mailto:pdmikBBM@aol.com) and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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