

Is Family Everything?



Community

THE PRACTICES OF A DISCIPLE:

1. BE WITH JESUS
2. **BECOME LIKE JESUS**
3. DO WHAT JESUS DID

Research shows strong social support has a positive impact on:



Cardiovascular system



Neuroendocrine system



Immune system



Inflammatory processes

BEFRIEND JESUS,
BEFRIEND OTHERS,
AND CONNECT
WITH PEOPLE
REGARDLESS OF
WHERE THEY ARE
ON THEIR JOURNEY.



All the More

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

~ Hebrews 10:23-25


You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

2 Timothy 3:1-5

The Church: God's Family

BEFORE LEAVING EARTH, JESUS SAID:

*"I will build my church,
and the gates of hell shall
not prevail against it."*



(ORIGINAL GREEK) *"ekklesia"*

(TRANSLATION) *"a called-out assembly"*

An unchurched christian is a grotesque anomaly. The New Testament knows nothing of such a person. For the church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought. It is not an accident of history. On the contrary, the church is God's new community.

John Stott

HE CANNOT HAVE GOD FOR HIS FATHER
WHO HAS NOT THE CHURCH FOR HIS
MOTHER.

- CYPRIAN -

The Church: God's Family

Percentage who strongly agree with each statement



Prodigals /
Ex-Christians



Nomads /
Unchurched



Habitual
Churchgoers



Resilient
Disciples

The church is a place where I feel I belong

5%

10%

43%

88%

There is someone in my life who encourages me to grow spiritually

23%

31%

50%

85%

I am connected to a community of Christians

7%

7%

33%

82%

When growing up, I had close personal friends who were adults from my church, parish, or faith community

27%

31%

53%

77%

I admire the faith of my parents

16%

29%

45%

72%

I feel emotionally close to someone at my church

5%

6%

30%

64%

Is Family Everything?

FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS,
DEFENDER OF WIDOWS — THIS IS
GOD, WHOSE DWELLING IS HOLY.
GOD PLACES THE LONELY IN
FAMILIES...



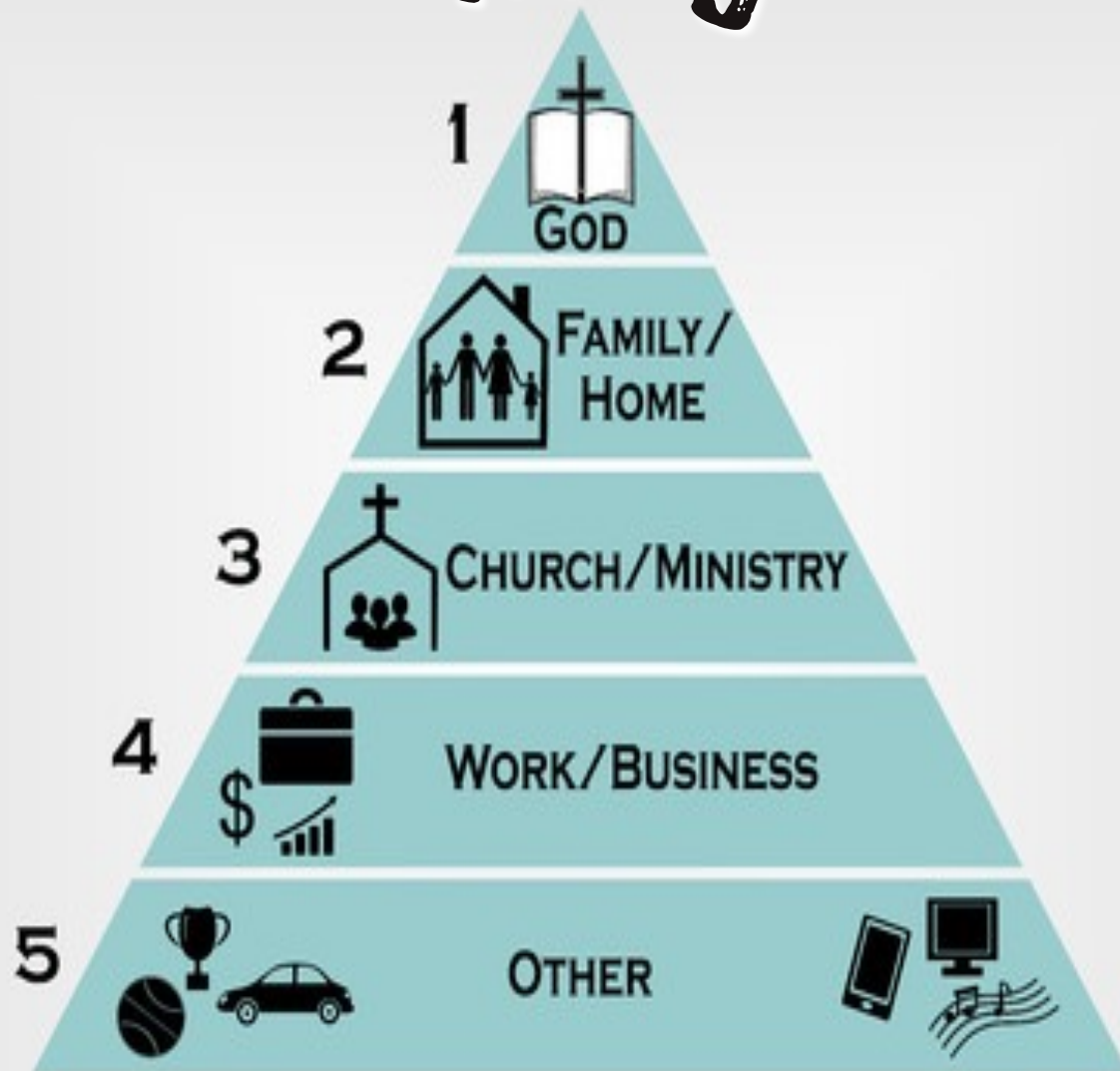
Jesus did not prioritize the Family Unit

– He didn't pursue getting married and having children. He and His Father always had other priorities.

His heart was for those without families: The widow, the orphan, the stranger, the alien, and the poor.

Jesus asked, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!"

Allegiance to Family



SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE PRIORITIES FOR WESTERN CHRISTIANS



“A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.””

- Luke 14:25-26 -

Still not sure if your priorities are in the right order?
Consider the following questions:

Is discipleship a priority in your home? Does your family see evidence that Jesus is the head and most important person in your home?

Is Christian community a priority in your home? Are you part of an active mid-week Christian community? Do you attend church on a regular basis?

Do you invite other people into your home? Families that put God and His Family first see their home as a ministry tool, not as an escape.

Do you sacrifice your time to serve the Kingdom of God? If your family is too busy with its own interests and activities that you don't have time to serve, it could indicate that you are putting the wrong family first.

Do you give sacrificially and generously to Kingdom causes? If you're reluctant to give because you're worried what it might cost your family, it could indicate that you are putting the wrong family first.