

# The Building Blocks of Strong Families

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Let miracles be released. In the name of Jesus Christ, we bring under divine arrest every force of darkness, any satanic spell, enchantment, projections of hell.

We bring it under divine arrest in the name of Jesus. And I declare that as your word comes, thank you, Lord, that families are blessed. In Jesus' name, and all shall say, amen.

[ 1 : 24 ] And all shall say, amen. Hallelujah. This month is our family enrichment month. And for that matter, all the Sundays we'll be focusing on messages that build the family.

We're dealing with husband's roles, wife's roles. We're dealing with husband's roles. It's bringing back the spice in your marriage. Make it sizzling.

We'll talk as well about how to enter marriage right and be poised for longevity and good marriage. We'll talk about a lot of other things, raising children as the Lord permits. Today I want to focus, because the opening, and I want to focus on the building block of strong families.

The building block of strong families. I don't know how many of you are aware, but nothing of value comes without an effort.

[ 2 : 37 ] Success is not a gift. And success is not by accident. So to have a good family life, it doesn't just happen because you are there.

Now what happens most of the time is that people go to school to be trained, to be good tradesmen, lawyers, doctors, whatever, in your career.

But most of the time, we are not trained to be good husbands or good wives. Or from home. Most of the time, some of us, the world view, family world view, or world view, or family world view that was given to us when we were growing up is worked.

Sometimes, the society we live in also give us wrong projections or wrong depiction of what the family is supposed to be like.

So then, we import the world view of society into families and families suffer at the end of the day.

Now watch this. No nation can be strong when the families in the nations are not strong.

[ 3 : 56 ] So you can't talk about strong nations without strong families. You want to know the strength of the families in the community or society.

Great Britain was exceptionally great, not because of the land mass they controlled. China was so big. India was far bigger.

And other countries are so big. But Great Britain virtually controlled the whole world. It controlled the whole world, not because of their land mass or there were giants in this country, but because of the strength, internal strength of the people.

So when you have strong people, they can do anything. Now watch this. The only way the internal strength of people can be smoothly transitioned or passed on is through families, strong family settings.

So people mess up in life most of the time. When people mess up in life, most of the time, check family issues. It has to do with families.

[ 5 : 10 ] Now, UK was so strong. Now, let me say this. Let me say this. See, the reason why the slave trade affected the slaves and their families so bad was that it divided families.

So up till now, families have not really kind of recovered. It's true. It's been from generation to generation.

Thank God for the church. The church is the only agent that can put back things together the way God intended it to be.

You know, it's not true. It's just up to you. Time will tell. The church. The slave trade affected families because they took the fathers away.

They took the mothers away. They separated them. You have your children. They send them somewhere. And so, and that was to weaken the strength and the resolve of the people. And so, it ends up breathing a group of people with pain, anger, and bitterness in their hearts.

[ 6 : 26 ] And so, sometimes you see, you see, we see people in town and legislation don't change people. Legislations don't change people. Do you see what I'm saying?

There's a problem. When families begin to break down, it affects the society. And so, politicians, what they have to do is then, they begin to try and put in policies to manage it. But policies can't manage what family is meant to do.

So, families, very important. Family is very important. And to have strong families, it starts from strong marriages. Yes.

Because purpose in life is not to buy cars, get some good job, and go. What lasting legacy are you living? If you are wise, why don't you pass it on to someone?

Raise someone. Pass it on. I don't need to raise. I just want to enjoy my life. Yeah, because you are myopic. You don't understand the value of life.

[ 7 : 23 ] Life is not about what you get. It's about what you give. Your duration is not the important thing in life. Your donation. What you give. Your legacy. And brothers and sisters, everyone is giving the God-giving grace to live a legacy by virtue of the children you raise.

And you can raise children effectively by yourself. They're lonely. So, if you get the opportunity to do it as a team, please don't undermine their team.

That's right. Because it's always better as a team. Two heads are... Though they may fight, it's still better. Hallelujah.

Now, just to let you know that God values families. Any system that undermines family is ungodly. Not even church systems.

Church system. Any system that undermines families is not of God. I'll prove it to you. So someone say, I just go to church. I don't care about my family.

[ 8 : 31 ] It doesn't matter. No, no, it matters. If you know the God who has called us, then you realize that you need to attend to family matters as well. Because the Bible says, to your faith, add virtue.

So you got to add something to your faith. In the book of Psalm, chapter, let's look at Psalm 69. Sorry, 68. Psalm 68.

Verse 6.

Psalm 68, verse 6. God says the solitary in families.

He brings out those who are bound into prosperity. But the rebellious dwell in a dry land. Let's read the first statement.

[ 9 : 32 ] The very first one. Let's read it together. Let's go. God says the solitary in families. One more time. God says the solitary in families. For the last time.

God says the solitary in families. God says the solitary in families. God believes in families. All right? That's one point I want us to appreciate.

In Ephesians, chapter 3, verse 15, the Bible says something quite interesting. Ephesians, chapter 3, verse 15, about how God is... When I was preparing, I saw this.

I said, oh, whoa, I've never seen it this way before. So, verse 14 says, for this reason I bow my knees to the Father of all... to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, this is talking about the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who is that? Who is that? God. God the Father, okay? He's the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. When you read the Bible, let me come across that statement or that phrase.

[ 10 : 27 ] The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He's talking about Jesus Christ, okay? So, now, so, for this reason, I bow my knees to God the Father. Does that make sense? To God the Father.

And what did he say about God the Father? Verse 15, verse 16, 15, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. He says that family life originates from him.

Family life originates from God. Did you realize how many of us know Jesus is God? If you don't know that, that means you are lost.

It's true. Jesus is God, all right? But the verse 14 says that I bow my knee to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you thought about that? The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You should have said God. But he said the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ because God loves to be described as Father.

[11:34] Before Jesus Christ came on earth, God was just known as Yahweh. He wasn't the Father. So, the Jews, when you talk about the Father of the Jews, who was it? Abraham.

All right? So, the Father of the Jews was Abraham. But Jesus Christ came to introduce, though he always, in his statement, was saying that I will ask the Father. And then when they asked him to teach us to pray, he said, when you pray, start with a relationship.

Our Father. Family life. Father is a family terminology. Right? God likes to be described or to be identified as a Father because he wants, this is what I want to say, all I've been trying to say, God identifies or likes to identify himself with families.

So, then why do you marginalize or underestimate the value of family? Because God himself, from the beginning, has always, to the extent that, when he created Adam, he said, Adam, you need to start a family.

He knew that Adam could not reflect him appropriately and properly without a family life. Oh, you didn't get it?

[12:42] Adam could not reflect or represent God appropriately without a family life. So, he said, Adam, you need to start a family. So, he got Eve and then the family started.

All right? So, God wants or identifies himself, with families because he's a God of families. Now, watch this. In Genesis chapter 18, Abraham, I've said this a few times.

In Genesis chapter 18, verse 19, Genesis chapter 18, verse 19, he said, this is God talking about Abraham.

He said, for I know him in order that he may command his children, you see that, and his household after him. one of the criteria for God choosing Abraham, was that he said, I know Abraham is a family man, and he can get his family, he can put his family in order.

So, he said, I know him in order that he may command his children, and household after him, that they may keep, did you see that? that they may keep the way of the Lord.

[13:51] So, Abraham, God said about Abraham, that Abraham is a family man, and he knows how to run a family. That's one of the reasons why God chose Abraham. He said, to keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham, what he has spoken to him.

In other words, you want to enjoy what God has said about your life? See, God doesn't, listen, I said this, and I'll say it again, God blesses generationally.

So, when God is, see, that's why I said, if you say I want to be blessed in life, like, what's the meaning of that? When God is blessing you, it's not you.

He's blessing you, his blessing has to continue. When does he say that, I have never seen the righteous forsaken, he should have stopped there. Because the child, he didn't guarantee the child of the righteous, but he said, I have never, I've been young, I'm 37, I've been young and now I'm old, never have I seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed.

He immediately added the seed of the righteous. Because God, when God is blessing you, the whole thing is starting with you, going to continue. And so, when he called Abraham, he needed someone, who can put the family together, so that what he has said, can manifest and stay on earth.

[15:22] See, family is important. Don't let anybody, dead or alive, influence you to trivialize family. Because if you trivialize family, you trivialize your destiny.

Family is important. Some of us here, it should be all of us though, but some of us here, you know, the best gift, you have in life, is your family.

Excuse me, not your job. Your job is good. But as long as, it's not at the expense of your family.

One of the things that I, I'm yet to understand it properly, but I stand to be corrected on this, okay?

Stand to be corrected on this. Why people have parents, who are old, and they've dumped them, in a care home, and they don't care, living their own life.

It's not a blessing, it's a curse. It's going to destroy our nation. Please, if you are here, and you have parents, who are old, per adventure, because of the nature, of your busy schedule, you have abandoned them, and left them, left him or her, it's for someone, to take care of you, so your money, can pay the person.

[16:46] If that's what you are doing, and you don't even interact, if you left them, please, change your approach, quickly. Maybe you can, someone can take care of them, fine, but make sure you are also involved.

Money cannot answer everything. Money does not do everything. There's something that is more than money, that is love, that's relationship, okay. I don't know why people do that, in our nation. They abandon their elderly parents. They just leave them, and sometimes, these people, who are just taking care of them, are doing it because of their money. Not all of them do, but sometimes, some of it, that's how things work.

It's their job. Yesterday, or the day before, on the news, I heard this lady, and her husband, or something, they murdered their parents, about 15 years ago, and buried them, in their backyard. This is the evil, to its highest level. Your parents, you should be singing, sweet mother, and not go forget you. If you've got a parent, if you've got a mother, if you've got a father, please, treasure them.

[18:03] Value them. It will be for your own health, and safety. Bible say, honor your mother, and father, so it shall be well, with you. That's the, I don't, that scripture is strong.

Some of us are here, eating some nice food, and your mother, your father, is somewhere, struggling, and you can't be bothered, and you say things like, it's their life, I'm living my life. It doesn't matter, which prophet, prays for you, the blessing, will not show up. There's no way, it can be well with you, because God has said that, in his word.

Honor your mother, and your father. Put some money, in some envelope. Buy them, go to their house, check if their heater, is working. Even if yours, is not working, make sure theirs, is working. Winter is coming. So, this is too much, every time my mother, is asking for money, who should I go to? Count it a privilege. Pastor, you don't know my mom.

[19:03] Do as much as you can. But, what I'm trying to say, is let's honor parents, because God, is a God of families. Alright, it's very important. I will get into children, very soon.

God is a God of families. So, family is important to God. To the extent that, in 1 Timothy 3, verse 4, he says that, church, must be run like a family. Think about it.

Church, must be run, like a family, not a business. So, he says that, anyone who is supposed to be, a church elder, this is one of the, requirements, besides other ones.

He said, this one, he said that, it should be someone, who rules his, own house, well. Have his children, in submission, with all reverence. So, you might, go to the next verse, look at verse 5, that's a very interesting one.

Verse 5, let's all read verse 5 together, let's go. Did you see that? So, that tells you that, the church is a house, and it's a family.

[20:13] So, if you don't know how to, run a house, you can't run a church. The point here is that, the church, God, see, God is family minded, and so, he has created this, big, family called, church.

Church is family, okay. Now, God is, the father of the family, all right, and it's his household. So, church is God's own, Ecclesiastes chapter 2, verse 19, somewhere, it talks about, the household of God.

We are the members of God's household. And so, church is family, because God is a family minded God. And so, we never have to underestimate, or undermine, the value of family.

In first, it's a, in, look at chapter 12, verse 12, the same second Timothy. Look at verse 12. Second Timothy chapter 3, verse 12, it says that, now therefore, huh?

It's a, first Timothy chapter 3, verse 12, I'm sorry. First Timothy, so we read, verse 1 chapter 3, verse 4, 5, and then verse 12, it says that, let deacons be husbands of one wife, ruling their children, and their own house well.

[21:22] So, deacon, ministers, must be able to, rule their house. So, if someone is not able to, run a family, Bible says that, stay, keep the, it doesn't matter how many, how much tongues they speak in.

It doesn't matter how much they fast. It doesn't matter, you know, how much giftings they manifest. So, keep them away, because they can't run the church, or they can't lead the church.

Praise God. Now, they're built, so what are the building blocks of a family? Having said all this, I said all these things, just to let you know that God values families. So, what builds strong families? Building blocks of strong families. Building, let's all say building blocks of strong families. Building blocks of strong families. Building blocks of strong families. Number one building block, I'll just give you five of them.

Number one building block is love. Love. Jesus loves me, this I know. Love.

[ 22 : 24 ] The scriptures say, let love be without dissimulation. Let love be without hypocrisy. What do you mean by love and family? When we talk about love, we are talking about a place where you know you are accepted in spite of your flaws or your strengths.

One of the problems of people who are wealthy and famous is this issue. Because when you are famous, as is usually said, success has many fathers.

While failure remains an orphan. Yeah. Have you realized that when you don't have money, things are down and you are failing in life, even in life, your friends don't end up abandoning you.

Some friends, true friends will stick to you, stick with you. All right. But then when people who you think are your friends, oh, when you had a lot of money, they were always with you going for parties and going.

Now when you lost everything, you call them, they don't even answer their phone. They don't answer their phone. So people abandon you. Human beings are like that.

[ 23 : 30 ] They only migrate towards things that are working. So can I give you an advice? Please, don't follow friends to lose your destiny.

Because those friends will leave you. Focus on your future, your destiny. Focus. Stay focused. Stay focused. Especially those of us who are under 40 and under 30 and possibly within the teenage range.

That's an adage. It says that 20 children will never play together 20 years. Some of us, some of us here, you're 10 years ago, your best friend.

Now you don't even know where they are. You know, the gentleman, my best friend, that was my closest friend, Charles. Now, we are that close. So close.

Charles is married and he's in the States. And I don't know where he is at the moment. He may be listening to me via internet or something.

[ 24 : 38 ] But Charles, if you are listening, please get in touch. I don't know where he is. I think he's in D.C. or something like that. But we are not at Loggerheads.

We are still, when we meet right now, fire. It's like everything. But everyone is running his life. So can you imagine if I was following him or he was just following me recklessly without focusing on destiny.

At the end of the day, it gets to a time I realize that, Charles, you are buried in, I don't really need you. Because where I'm going, you don't seem to understand where I'm going. That's how life is. Some of us, if you get lifted and elevated to certain high political positions and you realize that your friends will change.

When you are doing, you decide to put a party together or doing some party, there are some people you can't, they are your best friends but you can't invite them. Yeah. So then everyone needs to build yourself.

Build yourself. And if some friends leave you because you are focusing, you will get some new friends. Do you understand what I'm trying to say? It's important. So friends sometimes come and go.

[ 25 : 49 ] True friends usually stick to stay with you permanently. But people are always concerned about who comes on their team because they want, if I'm going to marry someone, I don't want someone who will marry me for what I've got.

I don't want someone who will marry me for my standing in society because family is about acceptance. Now, when we talk about love, we are talking about a place where people come and they know that in spite of their flaws, they are accepted.

Some of the cultures are quite funny. They like teasing. When people mock you outside, you come home, dad should look at you, mom should look at you, say, that's my girl, that's my boy, you are so beautiful, you are so handsome.

Mothers and fathers, listen, let us reward honesty and truthfulness in our children. When your child tells you the truth, if you have to punish the child, find a way to separate the punishment from rewarding the truth.

Because other than that, we raise experts in lies. They will lie looking at your face, smiling. You know they are lying, but you can't tell why they are lying. You can't find where it's coming from. [ 27 : 04 ] That's why many times parents end up saying that, I didn't know my child. They will swear and defend their child and you don't know your child because sometimes they are afraid to talk because and you say, I've told you always come to me and talk, but they know that mom, you can't listen.

If I come and talk, dad, if I come and tell you, you'll be so upset with me, you will rain hell on me and I don't want that. So parents, what I'm trying to say is that we have to discipline our children, but let us reward our children for truthfulness.

And never embarrass your child in the presence of others, outsiders. He was sitting behind the mother and lifted the hand and there. hallelujah.

Never, please, don't humiliate your children or your child and particularly your spouse, your wife or your husband. Many husbands are losing their wives.

Many wives are losing their husbands because when they go in public and even church, when you come to church, your wife, your husband feels like they don't belong to you because you've seen other people so you want to associate with 30 people because your husband really don't like the way he looks like.

[ 28 : 23 ] You don't like the way your wife looks like. And so when you go in public, you are trying to hide him or hide her. I don't know who I'm talking to. That's the one you've got.

You know, maybe it's the way he does his beard, you don't like it or the way she wears her tights, you may not like it or, sorry, the way... Let your family members know, watch this, let them know and let them feel that if anyone turns their back on them, as for you, you just celebrate them the way they are.

If your family member, listen, those of us, sometimes we are in church and your family member, your daughter, your son is in the ghettos on drugs, on some stuff, please, it doesn't matter when you see them, don't try and make them feel always bad, you look at you, you are a disgrace, stop that.

Let them feel that, you see, I don't like what you're doing but you know what, I still love you. I am for you. If they go to prison, go to prison, sit down with them, embrace them, tell them that, yeah, you did what you did but you know what, I still love you.

I still love you. I still love you. I still love you. The Bible says, love is stronger than death. Love. And so let's, family, when we talk about love, means that family should be a place where you know you can always find acceptance.

[ 29 : 43 ] Isn't it sad to note that there are a lot of young girls, a lot of young men who know that their family don't celebrate them? They don't feel accepted at home. Most young girls who don't feel accepted at home begin looking for it somewhere else.

That's right. And invariably, always inevitably end up becoming victims to some brother, some guy. And they come home with this guy, you see, the boy your daughter is working with and you're wondering, how come you go out with such a man?

And the man makes her feel good. The man makes her feel accepted, accepted, and stop always raining hell on your daughter. Always, you are a bad girl. You are like this.

You are alienating this girl. All she's looking for is love and acceptance. Change your approach. Embrace her. Change your approach.

Change your approach. Listen to me, brothers and sisters. When we come to church, what I'm doing now is a calling, it's first a calling and it's also a job.

[ 30 : 48 ] So, I'm making sure I do it the way it must be done. And then we can continue, we can do it together. It's very important. Family is a place where you must feel accepted.

Pastors, children always go away with. The devil is, it's not true. There's so many evidence. I mean, there's a pastor here, Pastor Joshua. Where is her daughter? Rise up, let's see you.

No, no, dad is here. Okay, we know. Did you see us? Lady in praise, worship? She's busy in God serving God. Some people, they already have three children.

That's a pastor's child. So, when you serve God, that thing they say your children will go off, it depends on what you put in them. It depends on what you put in them. Thank you very much. It's in them.

No, no, watch it. Look at these Jewish children. In the modern day of meritocracy and materialism, when people put extreme emphasis on their looks, makeup, hairstyle, and you will see these young girls in the same community with friends whose makeup, you can see they are their friends, but they are wearing this head cap, covering their whole face, and they are confident.

[ 32 : 03 ] Where do you think it's coming from? From home. From home. So, it doesn't matter where your child finds him or herself. Once you put some things in them, and I'm talking about confidence.

When we talk about love, we are talking about acceptance, which breeds confidence. Many girls, many girls who become vulnerable to all kinds of irresponsible men, if you check it very carefully, the problem is coming from that.

When dad leaves, sometimes it breaks their heart, and sometimes even they don't know. One of the things I find so lovely, loving, beautiful, is to see a father and a daughter in town and their friends. It's so sweet. It's sweeter than a boyfriend and a girlfriend. I'm telling you, because there is something that every loving father does to his daughter, which nothing can take from her and no man can intimidate her.

No man. I'm going to say something again. Watch it, watch it. Please, do me a favor. Can you hold on with the clapping because of time and let me just keep saying what I'm saying.

[ 33 : 25 ] Now, now, watch this. You are having a problem with her mom. You can't stand the mother. So you abandon her and you are expecting her to be okay.

You don't know the trap you are setting against your destiny. It's a trap against... against... You know what most elderly ones here will tell you.

You get to a certain age. Did you hear what Mama Grace said? Her greatest joy is to see her grandchildren. You get to a certain age and the cars don't matter. Houses don't matter.

The jobs don't matter because you don't even work anymore. Yeah. You get to a certain age and all these things, even friends, don't matter. What matters is the children you have raised who are doing well, continuing with your legacy.

And so then, if you focus so much on other things at the expense of your family, that means that there's a credit card. Fun to have, but when the bills come, it's not fun.

[ 34 : 32 ] Is somebody getting what I'm saying? So if I were you, I would pay the price now to keep my family strong, to keep my family together, make my sons, make my daughters, make my husband, make my wife.

Ladies, ladies, are the ladies in the house? All right. Many ladies, particularly Christian ladies or modern dead ladies, are losing their husbands because of the way they treat the man.

Christian men, watch this, watch this, watch this, decent men, Christian men can complain a lot. Though some of them are very bad, but it's very important the way you treat a man. It's very, why do you keep comparing, a pastor said, you should have wore your puppy like the way pastor has worn it.

Did you see pastor, pastor William's suit and every time your, pastor William's shirt is white, your own is always brown and green. And you make the man feel that you do not really appreciate who he is.

[ 35 : 41 ] You're talking about family. And when you talk about family, you're talking about your future. So this whole thing is more than meets the eye. Sister, if you've got one, maybe some of us even we've made some mistakes.

Human beings are, we have the proclivity to go wrong. The propensity to make some mistakes. If you make mistakes, this is what I like about God. God is a God of love. It does not matter what you did in the past.

He said, I don't care. I don't care. I just love you the way you are. And so then, if you made mistakes in the past and you are here, then you know that, wow, God gives you thumbs up for who you are. At least you made it here. You made it here. And because of that, tomorrow will be better for you. I thought I could hear somebody shout hallelujah. God values family.

Building block of family, love, which means acceptance, which means fellowship. Somebody say fellowship. Fellowship. It's very necessary to build fellowship in the house.

[ 36 : 47 ] I won't be able to finish because I already exhausted all my time. Next week, I'll continue. I'll talk about the fun bits. Family without fun is funny. There must be fun at home.

But when you're talking about love, that means that the family must be, the home must be a place of acceptance. It must be a place of fellowship. We have interaction one with another.

Sometimes, you know, there'll be fuder tensions every now and then. But I discovered that families that even learn how to interact together, maybe every evening or sit down around the dinner table, tend to be a strong family.

It helps. Jesus was always eating with them, the guys. There's something about having meals to be together. Babies?

Yes, I'm home. Where's my food? Right behind the microwave. Did you have salt?

[ 37 : 56 ] Go, you'll find out. We have to learn how to build strong fellowship.

It does something good to the family. Most of the stable families, especially in our land. But please, make it a point that you'll be there for your family. Make it a point.

Sometimes you have some hateful, annoying people in your family. Particularly sometimes your husband or wife. Depending on where you're looking at it from.

Because some of us, we can't stand your husband. Building block, love. Worship. But I'll pick worshiper from next Sunday. Thank you for listening.

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