

Section 1: Why

- Why
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Section 2: Answer

Part 1: Bible Truth About Family Togetherness

1. Family = FIRST human institution
2. Family is a PICTURE of Christ and His Church.
 - A. Wives = Church
 1. Submit to husbands
 2. Respect husbands
 - B. Husbands = Christ
 1. Love wives
 2. Like Christ loved the Church
 3. Responsible to see his wife thrive
 4. He comes for her (leave father and mother)
 - C. Submit to one another (21) coheirs (1 Pet. 3:7)
3. God calls us to TOGETHERNESS.
 - A. Together is better than apart – Genesis 2:18
 - B. God calls us to fellowship with Him.
John 15:1-4
To know God, we must be with God.
 - C. husband/wife = Christ/Church, so togetherness
 - D. We are called to togetherness with children.
Deuteronomy 6:6-9
 - E. The family is called to togetherness.
Joshua 24:15

Part 2: Practicing Togetherness

1. Go Shoulder-to-Shoulder
 - A. Lots to do; involve family whenever, however.
 1. Working on the car
 2. Going to the supermarket; fried Okra!
 3. Trip to Lowe's
 4. Renew your license/pay taxes
 5. Day at work, if possible
 6. Yard work, however possible
 7. Preparing meals
 8. House maintenance
 9. Brush your teeth together
 10. Clean the house; make it a game
 - B. Benefits
 1. Honoring God.
 2. Allows for interaction
 3. Accomplishment together
 4. Teachable moments
 5. Warning: It will slow you down a bit; enjoy it!
2. Go Face-to-Face
 - A. Undivided Time for another person
 1. Date night; get creative; families share childcare
 2. Game Night; video games, cards, board games
 3. Daddy/Mommy dates; one kid at a time
 4. Ask questions well; specific; no yes/no; feelings
 5. Rock Hunting, geo-caching, Pokemon Go
 6. Evening walk
 7. Backyard Kingdom
 8. Camping
 9. Hiking
 10. Movies
 - B. Benefits
 1. Honoring God
 2. Allows deeper interaction
 3. Reorients your priorities
 4. Let's one another know how much you care
 5. Teachable moments
 6. Builds relational capital

Section 3: Imagine

Next Steps

1. Enter Jesus' family
2. As a family or individual, discuss right now one thing you can change. Do it with TOGETHERNESS!

Okay, pop quiz time.

What words would you use to describe your family interactions?

Loving	Angry
Relaxed	Hurried, hectic, on the run
Conversational	All-business
Face-to-face	Face-to-Screen
Shared adventures	Separated inactivity
Listening	Speaking, yelling, anger
Laughter	Frustration
Sharing meals	Sharing fries in the car

There is so much about we can say and understand about family from God's Word, but we only have time for a small slice of the pie today. So, I want us to think about a family circle.

I have shared this before. If you were to list and rank the things that are most important to you in this world, at the top of the list would probably not be material possessions, but people, relationships. And that is right. However, in our culture right now, we are falling into spending too much time on the wrong priorities. I would imagine that your natural reaction to this idea is basically, "Well, we can't really help it. It's just the way the world is now. It's so fast-paced." Trust me I understand. I'm there. There will be seasons and moments in our lives in which it probably is necessary for things to be "on the run." At the same time, if that characterizes our home lives as normal, then we are to blame for that and we need to own it as sin. We need to flip the script. We all have the same 24 hours.

What I want us to do today is consider two things. First, I want us to look all-too-briefly at some of the Bible basis for family and the importance of togetherness. Second, I want us to get really practical about how we can make family time really count.