

Family Love

in the Church

- ☺ *Love is closely associated with sweet smelling fragrances (as pictured in the Song of Songs)*
- ☺ *As we love, we become spiritually fragrant*
- ☺ *Agape love is made up of at least 15 different aspects, as mentioned in 1Corinthians 13*
- ☺ *Agape love is not a thing to be used for our own ends.*
- ☺ *Now we will see how love in the church relates to the home...*

The Fragrance of a Home

- The father is head of the home. He is called to set the tone of the family.

(Eph 5:22-24 NNAS) Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

(Gen 18:19 NNAS) "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."

(John 8:39 NNAS) They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham."

- Fathers are commanded to *love* their wives (Eph. 5:25), and their children (Eph 6:4; Heb. 12:6-7)
- Children reflect the tone of their father. Jesus referred to this truth when dealing with the Pharisees of John 8. (note the Rechabite family of Jer. 35).
- Fathers are told not to provoke their children to anger (Eph. 6:4)

- Fathers are told to discipline their children, because they love them, not because they want to punish them (Heb. 12:5-6)
- Children look to their fathers as their example, their guide, their security. When a child has its trust violated by its father, it causes immense damage, because it is so unnatural.

Love Bears Fruit

- A husband who loves his wife, will cultivate a beautiful woman (Prov. 31)
- A father who loves his children will produce good children.
- A father who provokes his children by careless words, misconduct, neglect, and anger will produce wayward children. If this same father is a Christian, his children will have the added burden of knowing that God is real, yet experiencing the opposite from their father.

The Hardest Word

- A father who teaches his children that God accepts, lying, verbal abuse, and hypocrisy, is not loving his children as God requires them to be loved.
- In order for God's blessing to be restored, there needs to be repentance. Note the words of the prophet Malachi, who foretold of the ministry of John the Baptist-

(Mal 4:5-6 NNAS) "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

- The message of John the baptist was _____ .
- For love to be restored there needs to be repentance. Fathers need to learn how to humble themselves and say _____ .

Obligations

1. The tone of a home is set by the father. Fathers need to be loving.
2. When a father violates his commission toward his children, he causes terrible damage (Mark 9:42). He therefore needs to guard his words and conduct toward, and in the presence of, his children.
3. If a father has failed in his responsibilities as a loving father, he needs to learn how to repent and say sorry to his children, so that there can be reconciliation.

Next lesson: *Family Love- Part 2: Husbands and Wives*