

There Is No Substitute For Family

Psalms 127:3-5 [Message Bible] *“Don’t you see that children are God’s best gift? The fruit of the womb His generous legacy? Like a warrior’s fistful of arrows are the children of a vigorous youth. Oh, how blessed are you parents, with your quivers full of children! Your enemies don’t stand a chance against you, you’ll sweep them right off your doorstep.”*

The fact is, there is no foundation, no secure ground, upon which people may stand today if it isn’t the family unit of father, mother and children.

If you don’t have the support, love and the caring concern that you get from a family, you don’t have much at all.

Love within that family is so supremely important.

Without family love we are like a bird with a broken wing.

For instance:-

When we are sick or old people, people, friends, associates may come to visit but it is **not** the same as having someone who will not leave. **Not** the same as having someone whom you know will be there watching you the whole time.

Nothing else can be a substitute for this watchful care. Not money. Not fame. Not work.

Proverbs 17:6 [NIV] *“Children’s children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.”*

There is no experience like having children.

There is no substitute for family.

We learn how to love and bond in the deepest way in a family, especially when it involves three generations, grandfather and grandmother, father and mother, brothers and sisters.

Each generation can learn from each other and add to each other’s joy in life.

The family unit of father, mother and children is the best atmosphere in which children can learn about their Creator God.

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 [NIV] *“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many.”*

The opportunities for the children to learn are as long as their waking hours, when in a loving God-bearing family.

Proverbs 22:6 [NIV] *“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”*

What is learned as a young child will stay with them throughout their life.

Proverbs 22:15 [NIV] *“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.”*

This is **not** a command to beat a child with a rod. When this proverb was written the hearer would have known that the rod referred to was that used by a shepherd to gently place on the side of a sheep to guide it away from danger.

Every young child needs such gentle yet firm guidance to avoid the many dangers in this world.

Without discipline within the family children will make foolish decisions within their adult life.

The family is the best place to learn love, compassion, discipline and wisdom.

When the true family unit of father, mother and children and grandparents breaks down, the whole of society will suffer from the consequences.

The **Handbook For Life** is full of guidance to strengthen the family unit and so bring peace and stability to society.