

How to Create A Happy Christian Family Team

Dr. Robert C. Frank

Professor Emeritus of Physics, Augustana College

Serving on Christ's Team at St. James Lutheran Church.



The Miracle of Human Life

- Looking at the features of a new baby, it is hard to realize that the plan for those features was initially written on a tiny DNA molecule.
- During a nine month period in the sheltered environment of the mother's womb the plan on the DNA molecule evolves into a human being with all those features.

The Miracle Continues to Evolve

- God's miracle, the tiny baby, evolves into a fully mature human being in approximately twenty years.
- During that period, it is God's plan that the miracle be protected and guided by a family.

An Awesome Responsibility

- For people who do not believe in God, the responsibility for caring for a maturing human for so long can be overwhelming.
- For those who believe in God, it is fun, exciting, and highly rewarding because they will be aided by other Christians.

Christian Families

- In the Christian context, a family can be thought of as the closest circle of love around each individual, providing protection and support.
- Modern Christian families take many forms. They may involve two parents with children, one parent with children, grandparents with children, or two adults without children.

Christian Team Formation

- A team is a group of people with different abilities and functions working together in a coordinated manner toward a common goal.
- The Apostle Paul used a similar description for the followers of Jesus when he called them the Body of Christ because they all had different abilities, but were supposed to work together in a coordinated manner like organs of the human body. (1 Cor. 12)

Why is the Team Concept So Important?

- It honors and rejoices in the fact that every human life is different. No two people see the world the same.
- It gets its power and efficiency from the ability of the members to coordinate their efforts.
- It has a well defined and understood goal.

Why Should a Family Call Itself a Team?

- It will encourage the family members to think like a team and gradually become a team.
- They will respect their individual differences and make a stronger effort to coordinate their activities.
- They will also be more focused on a goal.

God's Plan for the Family Team

- God's plan is that all of the members of a family work together in a coordinated manner in such a way that each member of the family leads the best life they can lead, a challenging but worthy goal.

The Changing Roles of Parents

- In the 21st century, some parents may both work outside the home part of the time. Care of the home and children then becomes a shared responsibility.
- Leadership of the family is now more variable and shared.

Servant Leadership

- There are two types of leadership, (1) Pedestal Leadership where one person has total control (e.g. kings or emperors) and (2) Servant Leadership where the leader teaches by example and enables the others to also become servant leaders.
- Jesus Christ was the ultimate servant leader. He taught his disciples by example and they became servant leaders.
- Servant leadership more appropriately fits the team concept.

21st Century Home Management

- In the 21st century, husbands and wives, as servant leaders, take turns leading in the areas of their interests and expertise.
- Since home management is a team effort it is more efficient for training the children to also become servant leaders and home managers.

God's Rules For Functional Living

- God gave humans the Ten Commandments as a gift to help them live together in a happy and functional manner.
- When asked which was the greatest commandment, Jesus suggested two from Old Testament passages, “Love God with all your heart and mind and love your neighbor and yourself.”

Dealing with Failure

- Team sports help us learn how to deal with failure.
- If you lose a game because you made too many personal mistakes or the team members weren't working together, you learn from those mistakes and practice getting it right.

The Importance of Forgiveness

- Forgiveness plays an extremely important role in team sports and in life.
- Each player in team sports must learn from failures in previous games, but they have to forgive themselves and their teammates so they can do their best in future events.
- Christ's death and resurrection makes it possible for all of us to receive forgiveness and start each day anew.

Family Grace

- No member of a family, neither a spouse nor a child, should be reminded over and over about their failures.
- They need to be forgiven and then helped to learn how to get it right. Sometimes it may require getting help from outside organizations.

Dealing With Success

- Success provides the fuel that drives all of us to learn and improve.
- Every member of the family team needs the encouragement of the others. They need to rejoice in each other's success like the members of a sports team who share the joy when a game is won.
- Wisdom reminds us, however, that each success leads to the next challenge and each person's challenges are different.

Peace in the Family

- Peace with others requires peace within ourselves. Inner peace can be obtained with prayer.
- Prayer makes us aware of the presence of God. It heals our social wounds, calms our emotional storms and provides hope during periods when life becomes difficult.

Communication is a Vital Part of Teamwork

- Family members have to learn how to talk to each other about difficult subjects in a loving way.
- Everyone on the team has to know and be a part of the plan if the teamwork is to be successful.

21st Century Communication

- Christianity and science have provided families with superb communication in the 21st century.
- TV provides communication by a simultaneous combination of language and images and that helps us learn faster.
- Word and image processing computers have provided powerful search engines for information.

The Age of the iPhone

- Using the iPhone, parents can talk to each other and either talk directly to their children at school or leave text messages for them.
- The iPhone can also be used by parents to obtain information required for family needs from a variety of other resources and the internet.

Christianity's Assistance to Families

- Local churches serve as sub units of world wide Christianity, Christ's Team. As small teams they are well designed and have considerable resources to provide assistance to families.
- These church teams have team meetings, called worship services, every seven days to learn God's plan from the Bible and practice team activities.

The Learning Lab

- Sunday School, which is held either before or after the worship service, is actually a learning lab where children and adults learn and practice loving each other and working together in a coordinated manner as a team.

Team Meetings Every Seven Days

- Members of Christ's Team are expected to regularly attend the worship service team meetings every week.
- Can you imagine a member of a professional sports team ignoring weekly team meetings?

Benefits of Attending Team Meetings

- A major benefit is inspiration achieved through connection to God, the source of our existence.
- Since Christ is our coach we receive his wisdom, get updated with the latest plan and learn how to proceed.
- Additional benefits are accountability and sharing experiences with other families who are also attempting to create successful family teams.

Happiness and Gratitude

- Happiness and gratitude are intimately related.
- Happy family members love each other and continually thank God for their teammates.

Family Life in a Growing Kingdom of God

- In his story of the growing mustard plant, Jesus predicted that the kingdom of God would gradually evolve into something very large. (Luke 13:18-19)
- Christianity has spread all over the world and has grown to be the largest religion on earth, involving a third of the population.

An Evolving Civilization

- With the aid of Christianity and science, a beautiful new world is evolving as the kingdom of God. It is God's answer to our petition in the Lord's prayer when we say, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven."
- However, we are reminded by the media each day that there are still pockets of conflict all over the world so there is much work to do.

Life in a Rapidly Changing World

- The quality of civilization in the future depends on the quality of family life today.
- Happy and productive Christian family teams today will help produce a well functioning civilization in the world of tomorrow.

God loves you!

Create happy family teams!