



Managing GOD's Money

God's Word is under attack. Folks adopt cafeteria-style Christianity, accepting the Bible only partially. Minority groups twist the Word to suit their agendas. Subjective morality confuses our children, grand children, and us. Today, like the days of the Judges, each person does what is right in his own eyes!

How do we stop this trend and start teaching and practicing truth in families? I suggest through the Family Council that God led me to start at home a few years ago. Like a business' board of directors, it's the family's training forum.

Biblical Foundation

With Jesus as its foundation, it's where family members learn, teach, and model Jesus to one another. *Council* sessions should include Bible study to draw the family closer to one another and to Christ. They must stress spiritual, attitude, and behavior matters affecting daily living. The first of three suggested Family Council Goals I drew mainly from **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**. It deals with the Spiritual ...

1. Family Council Goal: Spiritual

Systematic Bible study to grow closer to Christ -- not to become theologians

(Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 5:12-14)

This will be a difficult goal to carry out! What if only one parent is a Christian and the children are not Christians? We pray and seek God's guidance continually. If mom is the believer and dad isn't, or if he withdraws, mom must seek God's guidance. The same applies in the reverse.

I took the second goal **Attitude, Behavior & Choices**, mostly from **Ephesians 5:21-6:4**:

2. Family Council Goals: Attitude, Behavior & Choices (ABCs)

- 1 To learn and model God-ordained roles for family members (**Ephesians 5:21- 6:4; Malachi 2:3-16; Matthew 19:4-6**)
- 2 To develop healthy family traditions (**2 Timothy 3:12-15**)
- 3 To encourage each other (**Proverbs 27:17**)

Matthew 19:16-22 describes well the last goal, handling money:

3 Family Council Goal: Financial

To learn, teach, and follow the Christ-centered way to handle money matters
(Luke 14:26-28; Matthew 19:16-22)

In the Council, mom, dad, and the children learn and model good stewardship to one another.

Servant Leadership

God gave dads the *Council's* servant leadership role. Ephesians 5:23 states, *for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.* Dad is "Home Inc's" Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"); its servant leader. We see Jesus, the perfect servant leader, in Matthew 20:28:

"... The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." --- Matthew 20:28

If dad is unwilling, or unable, to lead, leadership falls to mom, who already might have much to do; but God will help her cope. In a one-parent home, the single-parent-believer with the perfect spouse, Jesus, leads.

Singles, team up with a trusted same sex Christian friend. Work independently, share experiences, and hold each other accountable.

Besides setting the tone at home, the servant leader's main responsibility is to arrange regular meetings, suggest discussion topics, and help during each session. But he or she must not act dictatorially, and must understand servant leadership entails surrender to Christ.

Summary

A valuable *Council* could be a solid base for family members' spiritual grow. It will lower stress in the home, and become a major step to financial freedom as each family member manage his or her share of the family's budget.

The *Council* should meet regularly, same time, same place for two hours maximum. To encourage one another and the children's participation, dad and mom should be creative, but not compromise God's Word.

In closing, I ask you to **think about this:**

Are you learning, teaching, and modeling Jesus to your family by the way you handle His money?

Next time I will discuss borrowing. God bless and remember Jesus loves you.

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