

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Family Fun

SERMON REFERENCE: Psalm 128

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2127

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) A home ought to be the dearest place on Earth and the nearest place to Heaven.
- b) In Psalm 128, God gives us a description of the ideal family.
 - i) Not the normal or average family, but the ideal family.
 - ii) By God's standards, this ought to be normal.
 - iii) Psalm 128:1-6
- c) A family is an institution ordained of God; therefore, it is rooted in human nature.
 - i) God created the family to satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts and to give us a means whereby to give and receive love, to propagate the human race, and to provide a safe and secure environment in which to nurture, to teach and to love our children.
 - ii) A family is a God-ordained unit related by marriage, blood or adoption.
 - iii) Marriage is defined as a lifetime covenant relationship between a man and a woman.
 - (1) Sometimes that relationship is severed and there is a single parent with children; this is also a family.
- d) God's description of the ideal family includes the following:
 - i) A godly husband
 - (1) Psalm 128:1-2
 - (2) God has ordained that man is the head of the home.
 - ii) A faithful wife
 - (1) Psalm 128:3
 - iii) Happy and productive children
 - (1) Psalm 128:3
 - (a) In the Middle East, the olive was very valuable and productive.
 - (i) It needed to be nurtured and cared for.
 - iv) God says that this is a blessing.
 - (1) Psalm 128:4
- e) The idea of a happy family is often made fun of and ridiculed today.
 - i) Many think that if it ever existed, it can never come back.
 - ii) They see it as an elusive dream.
- f) Today's message will deal with a specific part of the family: family fun.
 - i) We need to learn about laughter.
 - ii) Psalm 126:2
 - (1) Our homes should be such happy places that our neighbors who don't know the Lord will see our laughter and joy and know that the Lord has done great things for us.
 - (2) One of the marks that God has done something great for us is that our mouths are filled with laughter.
- g) Laughter is a gift from God.
 - i) Genesis 21:6
 - (1) Sarah said that God made her to laugh.

- ii) Laughter and faith are not contradictory.
- h) Someone once defined humor as a gentle way to acknowledge human frailty.
 - i) People who are secure in their awareness of God's love and who have experienced His love and forgiveness are free to laugh.
- i) Humor should never be used to avoid facing issues or as a weapon to hurt members of our family, but it should be allowed to flourish as a part of family life.
- j) Family fun is not silly, mindless frivolity.
 - i) It is not irresponsibility.
 - ii) It is not failing to do what we ought to do because of carelessness.
 - (1) Fun and efficiency go together.
 - iii) People who have an unusual capacity for laughter also have an unusual capacity for seriousness.
 - iv) Psychologists tell us that a well-rounded sense of humor is one of the hallmarks of high intelligence.
- k) Family fun is not merely laughter and games.
 - i) It includes joy, happiness, games, humor, sports, leisure, vacations, meals, parties, celebration, entertainment, and much more.
- l) The Lord Jesus was not a religious recluse.
 - i) Matthew 11:19
 - (1) Jesus was called a winebibber and a glutton.
 - (a) He was not these things, but the Lord Jesus attended parties.
 - (i) His first miracle was at a wedding feast.
 - 1. John 2:1-11
 - ii) The Lord Jesus was a friendly person.
 - (1) He called Himself a friend of sinners.
 - iii) The little children loved the Lord Jesus.
 - (1) They wanted to come and sit in His lap.
 - (2) Matthew 19:14
 - iv) The Lord Jesus was a man of great gladness.
 - (1) Psalm 45:7
 - (2) Jesus knew joy and happiness.
- m) Satan loves to distort things.
 - i) There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, but the devil wants to get us out of balance and turn us into grim people.
 - (1) He wants to take the joy out of our lives.
- n) Leisure is not a luxury; it is a necessity.
 - i) "Leisure" means "to give permission" or "to be permitted."
 - ii) Leisure time is a time that we give ourselves permission to have without feeling guilty for enjoying it because we need it, and God wants us to have it.
 - iii) Don't fail to have fun with your kids while they are still children.
 - (1) Throw away the excuses.
 - (2) Take the time.

- o) Ecclesiastes 3:4
 - p) Luke 6:21
 - i) Don't get the idea that we can't be happy and be a Christian.
 - ii) God is not a cosmic killjoy who wants to move in to break up the party every time He sees someone having a good time.
 - (1) That is not the God of the Bible and not the God of a happy home.
 - q) There is a time to weep, and there are things we need to be serious about.
 - i) The things that break the heart of God ought to break our hearts.
 - r) The things that gave Jesus joy ought to also give us joy, and we ought to enjoy the things of God.
 - s) Mark 6:31
 - t) Today's message will focus on three things that family fun will do.
- 2) FAMILY FUN REFRESHES (PSALM 128:2)
- a) We have to work, and work is sometimes difficult.
 - i) However, we eat the labor of our hands, and God refreshes us.
 - b) Work is necessary, but it can't be all work and no play.
 - i) Psalm 127:2
 - (1) This passage describes a person who is more interested in his finances than his fun and more interested in his labor than his laughter.
 - (2) There is a time to work, but there's also a time to rest.
 - (3) Don't be so busy making a living that you forget to live.
 - (a) It is better to live rich than to die rich.
 - (4) "He giveth his beloved sleep" literally means that "He giveth His beloved in his sleep."
 - ii) Someone has said that if you are burning the candle at both ends, you're not as bright as you think you are.
 - (1) Life is passing you by.
 - (a) Your children are failing to have the joy and happiness that God wants you to have with family fun.
 - c) We spend too much time grinding out this thing called life, but Jesus came to give us abundant life.
 - i) John 10:10
- 3) FAMILY FUN REPAIRS (PSALM 128:2)
- a) "It will be well with thee" means that it will put things back together.
 - b) Laughter is a medicine, joy is a medicine, and happiness is a medicine.
 - i) Proverbs 17:22
 - ii) A grim and solemn spirit will break the health of an individual and the health of a family.
 - (1) Proverbs 12:25
 - (a) Learn to give some good words in your house.
 - c) Proverbs 15:13-15
 - i) When you have a merry heart, you have a continual feast.

- d) Physicians tell us that we live in a stressed-out society.
 - i) Our attitudes and our lack of joy control our emotions and our health.
 - (1) Our emotions so often control our physical bodies.
 - e) Laughter is a miracle medicine.
 - i) Proverbs 17:22
 - ii) It has been discovered that laughter has a profound and instantaneous effect on every organ in our bodies.
 - iii) Laughter reduces tensions, it exercises vital organs, and it replaces bad emotions.
 - f) Man is the only creature who can do three things:
 - i) Weep
 - ii) Blush
 - iii) Laugh
 - (1) Laughter is a gift from God.
 - (2) God made us to laugh.
 - g) Laughter has a way of releasing tension, whether it is a broken spirit, a broken body or a broken home.
 - h) We need to have some fun and not take ourselves all that seriously.
 - i) When raising children:
 - i) Be firm.
 - (1) Have some rules.
 - ii) Be fair.
 - (1) Be honest.
 - iii) Be fun.
 - (1) Don't be an ogre.
- 4) FAMILY FUN REMAINS (PSALM 128:4-6)
- a) Family fun will linger and echo throughout your life.
 - b) We are building for our children a museum of memories.
 - i) We should want those memories to be of a happy home, a home that rings with laughter.
 - ii) Memories are our landmarks; they keep us from getting lost.
 - iii) Memories bring a sense of security and belonging to a child's life.
 - iv) Memories are anchors of the soul.
 - c) As adults, we remember many things about our childhood.
 - i) We remember sorrows, pains, deprivation and victories.
 - ii) We remember what kind of car our father drove.
 - iii) We remember the house we lived in.
 - iv) But we most enjoy remembering the fun times.
 - (1) Family fun remains.
 - (a) Even when loved ones pass on, we remember the laughter; and family fun remains.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) It is our legacy and our necessity to have family fun in our homes and in our churches.
- b) But if you don't know the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter what kind of time you have with your children, you will one day have to kiss them goodbye.
- c) God wants everyone to have three homes:
 - i) A church home
 - ii) A family home
 - iii) A heavenly home(1) Jesus Christ is the key to all three.
- d) Psalm 128:1
 - i) The fear of the Lord is love on its knees.
- e) Have you ever bowed your head, humbled your heart and asked the Lord Jesus to come into your heart and life and save you?
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16