

The Priority of Family

Family Foundations

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July 21, 2019

▲▲ *For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge —that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. ▼▼*

—Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)

Barna - Breakdown of Christian Households (2018)

- 25% - Nuclear Family
- 17% - Roommates
- 14% - Couple
- 12% - Multi-Generational
- 12% - Single Parent
- 5% - Grown-Up Nuclear Family
- 17% - Other

Barna - Key characteristics that marked Spiritually Vibrant Households:

- Quality Time
- Encouragement

- Forgiveness
- Hospitality
- Community Involvement
- Fun
- Kids are a catalyst for vibrancy, including vibrant faith.

The Gospel According to Culture by Drew Steadman

- Cultural Christianity
- Humanism
- Kingdom Culture

The Main Thing: The family—in the house and in the church—is where we learn to receive and give love with grace and truth.

1. In the House.

- Ephesians
- Colossians

2. In the Church.

¶¶ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.¶¶

—1 Corinthians 13:1-8 (NIV)

America's Blessings: How Religion Benefits Everyone, Including Atheists

For example, compared to less religious and irreligious Americans,

- At all ages, religious people are much less likely to commit crimes.
- Religious Americans are far more likely to contribute even to secular charities, to volunteer their time to socially beneficial programs, and to be active in civic affairs.
- Religious Americans enjoy superior mental health—they are happier, less neurotic, and far less likely to commit suicide.
- Religious Americans also enjoy superior physical health, having an average life expectancy more than seven years longer than that of the irreligious.
- Religious people are more apt to marry and less likely to divorce, and they express higher degrees of satisfaction with their spouses. They also are more likely to have children.
- Religious husbands are substantially less likely to abuse their wives or children.
- Religious American couples enjoy their sex lives more and are far less likely to have extramarital affairs.
- Religious students perform better on standardized achievement tests.
- Religious Americans are far less likely to have dropped out of school, which is especially true for African Americans and Hispanics.
- Religious Americans are more successful, obtaining better jobs and far less subject to being on unemployment or welfare; this is true not only for whites but for African Americans.
- Although often portrayed as ignorant philistines, religious Americans are more likely to consume and sustain “high culture.”
- Religious people are far less likely to believe in occult and paranormal phenomena such as Bigfoot, UFOs, Atlantis, ghosts, haunted houses, and astrology.
- Monetary terms - \$2.7 trillion saved per year...