

**Values in a Godly Home**  
**Week 5 of Series “As for me and MY house” 06-29-14**  
Exciting First Church of God, Pastor Peter Smith

**Five Values that start at Home!**

**1. Character (Moral qualities distinctive to a person)**

**God commanded Families to Teach His Ways—*Character***

“Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God:...Place these words on your hearts. Get them deep inside you. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder. Teach them to your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning until you fall into bed at night. Inscribe them on the doorposts and gates of your cities so that you’ll live a long time, and your children with you, on the soil that GOD promised to give your ancestors for as long as there is a sky over the Earth.”

-Deuteronomy 11:2, 18-21, New International Version

- What we have seen as parents, as Christians
- We are to “Train up a child the way they should go” according to the Bible
- Real life verifies the break down that has occurred in the family structure and now the lack of Character in so many lives
- Schools now offer weekly Character training Grades K-8!
- Godly homes take on this value of God seriously!
- Have you been delinquent? New to Christ? God says, “Start today!”

Paul, coming to faith in Jesus later in life, said,

“I forget what is in the past and try as hard as I can to reach the goal before me.”

-Phil. 3:13, ERV

**2. Relationships**

The model for a strong society begins at home

“Children, obey your parents the way the Lord wants, because this is the right thing to do. The command says, “You must respect your father and mother.” This is the first command that has a promise with it. And this is the promise: “Then all will go well with you, and you will have a long life on the earth. Fathers, don’t make your children angry, but raise them with the kind of teaching and training you learn from the Lord.”

-Ephesians 6:1-5, Easy to Read Version

“Wives, understand and support your husbands by submitting to them in ways that honor the Master. Husbands, go all out in love for your wives. Don’t take advantage of them. Children, do what your parents tell you. This delights the Master no end. Parents, don’t come down too hard on your children or you’ll crush their spirits.”

-Colossians 3:18-21, The Message

- Not a return to “Leave it to Beaver”! but a
- Focus on mutual love in the safety of our family
- From home we carry this into society, into our world

### **What should we learn about relationships at home?**

- Godly Dating
- Godly Marriage
- Godly Home life

Will you dedicate your relationships at home, at work and at play to God today?

### **3. Dedicated Homes**

- What this series has been about: Josh. 24:15
- My house is different...it belongs to God
- Our place in the community
- Reclaim where God has placed us, the sanctity of “my domain”!

**Garbage in, garbage out!**

### **4. Church matters**

A church is only as strong as the members in it! (we can also say: A church is only:

- As Christ-like...as the members in it
- As loving...
- As caring...
- As committed....
- As holy / moral...

If we want FCOG to be a great church, a place of healing, a place of hope and faith, then it all starts at home with US!

Church isn't optional!! For our kids, for dad, for .....

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

"Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "I will give half of my property to the poor. And I will now pay back four times as much to everyone I have ever cheated."

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost." -vss. 8-10, Contemporary English Version

What happened to Zacchaeus?

- He let his conversion / faith "out"
- He promised to give back to his town, his neighbors
- He was going to make a difference, because of his Faith
- Can this happen to us? Should this happen to us? Imagine how others might notice...and people already are in many of your lives!

## 5. Community (Others)

But you are to be given power when the Holy Spirit has come to you. You will be witnesses to me, not only in Jerusalem, not only throughout Judea, not only in Samaria, but to the very ends of the earth!"

-Acts 1:8, JB Phillips NT

- When we focus on our home / families serving the Lord as Joshua did, our community will begin to change. It's natural outgrowth:
  - We behave different at work, at school, at play
  - A reputation begins to happen
  - Our relationships with others become stronger, leading to openness to hearing the Gospel of Jesus
- Like last week's message, together the Christian community serves God not only publicly but in their homes. Imagine what your neighborhood would be like:
  1. Friends get involved when there is a crisis instead of the police;
  2. Neighbors call and check on one another instead of Social Services;
  3. We share our food with a hungry neighbor; our kid's gently worn clothes with the neighbor's fast growing kids;
  4. Imagine if together we went to the drug dealers and told them we don't want them in our community any longer! It's happening around our nation...
  5. Imagine what life would be like if we internalized our Christian values at home, then at church and then in our community?!