

Striking Balance in the Family!

Eccl. 3.1-8

Intro:

One question that arises often is, “*where is the balance...?*”. How can the family who proclaims Christ as Lord strike the right balance in life? What about church, recreation, family time, hanging with friends, courting, working, finances and many more endeavors and things which are life related? These are tough to navigate and manage at times. How do we have assurance of doing the right things? Simple answer: Fearing God, keeping His commands is man’s all (Eccl. 12.13). The family is under the same obligations and therefore must perform this as a unit for the glory of God. God has given the family freedoms to enjoy along with the commands that are matters of opinion and encouragement as well (Rom. 14). How do we strike the correct balance?

Discussion:

I. A Time for Everything (Eccl. 3.1-8)!

- A. For Every Purpose (situation or matter) under heaven.
 - 1. There’s an answer, an example or principle to consider (Deut. 29.29).
 - 2. God has given us His teaching for all situations in life (2 Pet. 1.3).
 - 3. We have to search the word and draw out the teaching (Pro. 25.2).
 - 4. There is a way that seems right, but the end is death (Pro. 14.12).
 - 5. The Lord wants us to enjoy life and see good days (John 10.10; 1 Pet. 3.10).
- B. There’s a Time For Everything (28 things mentioned).
 - 1. Every part of life is somewhat different is the Main Point.
 - 2. For example–All life is NOT WORSHIP (Rom. 12.1-2).
 - 3. N.T. worship has designated demarcations of start and finish (1 Cor. 14).
 - 4. Life requires great wisdom, patient actions and fervent prayer.
 - 5. Most importantly, life requires paying attention to detail (Eph. 5.15).
- C. The home must teach about these different times of life...
 - 1. Balancing life is challenging and requires the wisdom of God.
 - 2. Life is not all serious, yet, it is not all fun and games (vs. 4).
 - 3. We cannot work our lives away, but better not be lazy (vs. 6).
 - 4. Toughest times in life are putting things/people away from you (vs. 6).
 - 5. These small yet great lessons must be taught early and throughout life.

II. How to Determine What is Right, Wrong or Matter of the Conscience (Eph. 5.17)!

- A. Three Ideas to consider. (**Jer. 6.16-17**)
 - 1. There’s a way that is RIGHT and cannot be WRONG.
 - a) You will never go wrong telling the truth.
 - b) Studying and doing spiritual things with family is always good.

- c) It is always right to do right...
 - 2. There's a way that is WRONG and cannot be RIGHT.
 - a) It is never right to lie or deceive anyone (speak truth).
 - b) It is never right to go against God's moral systems (adultery, etc).
 - c) It is always right to reject wrong behavior and lifestyles.
 - 3. Then there are MATTERS of the CONSCIENCE. It can be EITHER.
 - a) Attending certain concerts or going to ball games.
 - b) Playing video games or reading certain materials.
 - c) How one may drive their car or celebrate certain days.
- B. Who is glorified with the decision made?
 - 1. If God is not glorified, consideration must be had.
 - 2. This is challenging if one is not taught correctly.
 - 3. Will my decision to live and do what I'm doing please me or God?
 - a) Gal. 1.10
 - b) Rom. 15.3 (even Christ pleased not Himself)
 - c) Col. 3.17 (It must be by the authority of Christ)
- C. Will this activity hinder my relationship with God and my brethren?
 - 1. Jesus attended weddings in John 2.
 - 2. Paul referred to sports or sporting events in 2 Tim. 2.5
 - 3. We must be careful to not allow things to control us/our time (1 Cor. 6.12).

III. Striking The Right Balance (Exodus 18.13-14)!

- A. Do NOT overextend yourself if possible, lest it affect your spiritual service.
 - 1. Know when to say no and get help where you can.
 - 2. You will smother your life and it's guaranteed you will neglect things.
 - 3. You need time to think and meditate on life and the word (Ps. 1.1-6).
 - 4. You need time to rest your mind and body (undisturbed place - Is. 32.18).
- B. Take CARE of your health (3 Jn. 2).
 - 1. Get checked up and see your doctor when necessary (Mk. 2.17).
 - 2. Even Jesus commanded His disciples to take care of themselves (Mk. 6.31). Do not forget your resting place (Jer. 50.6).
 - 3. Be intentional with striking the correct balance. Yonder's place (Mt. 26.36). Meaning, get away and intentionally be with God.
- C. Encourage yourself and others to do God's will.
 - 1. David had to encourage himself to do right when discouraged (1 Sam. 30.6).
 - 2. We must encourage one another to do right as well in the home (Jude 20).
 - 3. Exercising grace (teaching), mercy (clemency) and peace (calmness) should strike balance in the home.