

God's Values for the Family **Compiled and posted by Bob Young**

*[Notes: (1) Chad Donley first called my attention to the following;
(2) the themes below have been developed into a "family seminar" based on the book of Ephesians, with the number of sessions variable.]*

Sherry Kruger is a blogger for Zen Family Habits and recently wrote an article she entitled "Top 10 Essential Family Values." She asks the question, "How do you define family values?" In the Christian home, family values are rules or ideals that, as a family, we agree to live by and to which we stay true. A list of essential family values could be very long and would vary by family. However, having strong well-defined Christian family values helps solidify the foundation for a strong, tight knit family. When cultivated over a long period of time, the closeness of shared values provides a soft place to fall when life does not go according to plan. Strong and consistent family values are important in building trust and confidence in each family member.

After reading Chad's thoughts, I asked myself the question, "What are God's values for the family?" I thought about the physical family, and also about the spiritual family. (I am not sure the values differ much between these two kinds of families God has established.) After I completed my list, I noted how closely the list parallels many of the concepts Paul treats in Ephesians where one metaphor he uses for the church is the family of God.

Here is my list. (Ten values or a dozen basic concepts would be interesting—my list ended up with 11.)

Purpose

Belonging

Traditions

Unity

Communication

Honesty, handling truth lovingly

Responsibility, giftedness, participation

Flexibility; mutual, responsive relationships

Generosity

Respect; humility, gentleness, patience, love

Forgiveness