

## Family Focus

### Relationships with Orphans and Discipleship

#### **Review:**

True or false: Discipleship is a ministry \_\_\_\_\_ for the church.

Discipleship necessitates relationships. But certain \_\_\_\_\_ necessitate discipleship.

If we neglect family relationships, we will not be a faithful disciple of Christ. It is \_\_\_\_\_ for every believer to have a family focus as he or she grows in the process of discipleship.

Is there a difference between how we typically think of the word, “\_\_\_\_\_” and how the Bible might define people who are unmarried?

Caring for \_\_\_\_\_ is a picture of the grace of God.

At the cross, John, the beloved disciple, who is under no biological obligation to care for Mary, lovingly takes Mary and receives her to his home.

#### **Caring for orphans is another picture of the grace of God.**

1. The Character and Conduct of God – Psalm 68:5-6a
  - a. His Character: “A father of the fatherless . . . is God in His holy \_\_\_\_\_”
  - b. His Conduct: God sets the solitary in \_\_\_\_\_
    - i. John 1:12; John 8:44; John 10:13; John 14:18 – In the family of God, we have been given the Spirit of God.
    - ii. Romans 8:12-17; Galatians 4:3-7; Ephesians 1:5
2. Our character and conduct as disciples of Christ ought to reflect the love of God in our care of orphans.
  - a. James 1:27 – “\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ religion before God and the \_\_\_\_\_: to \_\_\_\_\_ orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”
  - b. Practical applications for your consideration:
    - i. Physical orphans:
      1. Parents, it is important to have a \_\_\_\_\_.
      2. Welcome orphaned \_\_\_\_\_ members into your home.
      3. \_\_\_\_\_ is clearly a biblical practice.
      4. Look for ways to \_\_\_\_\_ for orphans.
      5. Support ministries that care for orphans.

- ii. Spiritual orphans (either they are lost or maybe a Christian young person coming from an unsaved family)
  1. God's heart for orphans prioritizes the role of \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, parents must seek to fulfill their role passionately and faithfully.
  2. Have a burden and a passion for the \_\_\_\_\_. Love them in a way that will point them to the love of Christ.
  3. The ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ is a powerful evangelistic tool.
  4. Grandpa's and Grandma's, if your grandchildren are spiritual orphans, pray for them and minister to them as best you can.
  5. As a church, we ought to emphasize the importance of the church \_\_\_\_\_
    - a. We are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
    - b. Yet, Paul was a \_\_\_\_\_ to Timothy.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are you learning from the Word this week? How have you applied or shared what you are learning in your family?
2. What are some implications from defining terms like "single" from a Biblical perspective? What is missed when you automatically accept the "normal" definition?
3. What are some results of the government caring for widows rather than the family or the church caring for widows?
4. What has been your greatest challenge or blessing in caring for a widow?
5. Widows, what has been your greatest challenge? How have you been blessed in your widowhood?
6. What is a specific way that you can apply this message in the next week/month?
7. What type of orphans can you minister to?
8. What would be the number one reason why you would consider adoption?
9. What would be the number one reason to not adopt?
10. What application point from tonight's lesson resonated the most with you?