

Foundations for the Family

What a mess

- at a Southgate school – Monday 16 March 2010
- near Cat Hill, Southgate – Thursday 18 March 2010, 7.35 p.m.
- at Southgate tube – Thursday 18 March 2010, 7.45 p.m.

We could give up on the family (despair of it or dismiss it) in an ungodly way

We could stand up for the family (define it or defend it) in an ungodly way

We should be committed to and confident in the family in a Godly way

Psalm 127

- three general principles (our answer will be “God”; alternatives will not work; this makes for gratitude, dependence, and resolve)
- two halves of the Psalm and how they relate

Foundations for the Family: (two sorts of foundation – how we explain the family and how we exist as families)

1. The triune life of God (love – living in line with God’s sort of life)

- identity in relationship
 - I am who I am in relation to the Other; my name is given to me
- receiving glory by giving it
 - life is had in laying life down; love is giving my Self away
- the equal ultimacy of the One and the Many
 - neither the individual nor the ‘group’ lies at the heart of reality – triunity does

And the questions thrown up by these three points are unanswerable outside of biblical ways – other ‘foundations’ are incoherent.

2. The creation order of God (faith – living in line with God-given reality)

- the household principle
 - covenantal units and identities
- authority / hierarchy
 - an inescapable concept
- time, space and progress
 - a starting point, an environment, and growth

And the necessity for these three structures is ungrounded outside of biblical ways – other ‘foundations’ are arbitrary.

3. The redemptive glory-project of God (hope – living in line with God’s promised future)

- the glory-project is a ‘family’ project
 - everyone’s favourite Edwards quote; the family as thumbnail icon
- the family and the Church
 - the Church transcends, exemplifies, relativizes, establishes, and renews the family
- the family as means not end, created not Creator
 - neither to be idolised nor despised, neither given worship nor deemed worthless

And the significance the family receives from these perspectives is absent outside of biblical ways – other foundations are ‘pointless’.

Build the family on *these* foundations and it has coherence, groundedness, and purpose.

More on right foundations:

I Corinthians 3 – no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ

Matthew 7 – everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.