

Vision for the Family

Foundation of the family: **the triune God** (triune life) **made it** (creation order) **for a reason** (glory-project)

The vision for the family flows from that:

- the triune life of God – how we are to live together in a family
- the creation order of God – how the family stands in society
- the glory-project of God – how the family relates to the Church

Psalm 127 – the building project and the battle

1. See the vast reach and great influence of the godly family in the purposes of God

- authority and freedom
- privacy without selfishness
- busy-ness and rest
- inheritance and responsibility
- equality and diversity
- identity – given and constructed
- healthcare – sickness and dying
- care of the elderly and disabled
- care of the immigrant and bereft
- protecting life (abortion and euthanasia)
- creating wealth – private property
- employability and sustainability
- hospitality
- welfare
- reducing crime
- education

2. Recognize the enemies - the family under siege from a pernicious alliance:

- selfishness within (a false faith)
- statism without (a false god)

The unrenewed heart seeks a false god: when selfishness and inadequacy meet they go looking for something to help – and up steps the State. Fleeing godly responsibility (seeking freedom) the selfish end up enslaved.

3. Attack and undermine those enemies by gospel living

- how the gospel undermines and destroys selfishness and inadequacy
- how the gospel undermines and destroys statism

4. Take care over certain critical issues: Matthew 6.33 and ...

- a. the Church
- b. angry Dads and anxious Mums
- c. time
- d. how many children?
- e. education
- f. ambitions for your children
- g. the definition of 'normal' family life
- h. family devotions

5. The vision for the family is the vision for all things – that Christ should have first place (Col 1.18)