

God's Instructions for Those Who Live with Unsaved Family

Work Your Influence

- Influence is important for Christians in their every relationship.
- Luke 14:34-35 - “Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? 35 It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Work Your Influence

- The value of a good influence
 - Ecc. 7:1 - “A good name is better than precious ointment...”
 - Prov. 22:1 - “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.”
 - Isa. 38:19 - “...The father shall make known Your truth to the children.”

Work Your Influence

- Matt. 5:13-16 - “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
- Phil. 2:14-15 - “Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world”

Work Your Influence

- What happens when we neglect or compromise our influence?
 - It is good for nothing - Luke 14:34-35
 - Our enemies are justified - 1Peter 3:15-16
 - God is blasphemed - 1Tim. 6:1
 - Souls are not won for Christ - 1Peter 3:1-2
 - We increase the probability that our families will not obey the Gospel and will likely choose to continue in sin and/or religious error.
- We must purposefully develop and protect our influence.

Be Morally Consistent

- In your daily example
 - Ecc. 10:1 - “Dead flies putrefy the perfumer’s ointment, And cause it to give off a foul odor; So does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor.”

Be Morally Consistent

- The world is always trying to catch believers in inconsistencies. They believe it invalidates their message.
 - Matt. 23:3 - “Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.”
- Our families in their hearts want to see consistency in us; inconsistency voids their trust in their kinfolk.

Be Morally Consistent

- In the way you interact with people outside of the family.
 - Rom. 2:3 - “And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?”

Be Morally Consistent

- Never apply one standard of judgment to your family and friends, and another to strangers or enemies.
 - James 2:1-4, 12 - “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, You sit here in a good place, and say to the poor man, You stand there, or, Sit here at my footstool, 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.”
- Judgmentalism breeds more judgmentalism, and it is often turned against the ones who perpetrate it.

Be Morally Consistent

- Rom. 2:17-23 - “Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, 18 and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say, Do not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?”

Be Materially Dependable

- Reliable - “Consistently good in quality or performance; able to be trusted.” (Merriam-Webster)
- “How to raise a child to be a burden to others: Don’t be dependable. When given a job leave it undone. Don’t listen or pay attention to instructions. Never ask a question if you don’t understand. Don’t be responsible. Never do your duty consistently; never volunteer and never go beyond what is the minimum requirement. Don’t be trustworthy. Don’t do what you say you will do. Never get in a hurry or concerned about be sidetracked. Forget a lot. Constantly change jobs with large gaps of unemployment in between; blame others for your unreliability.” (*Dr. Thomas Warek, Traits of Successful Christian Parenting*)

Be Materially Dependable

- How do kinfolk respond to Christians that are unreliable? They don't trust them.
 - They don't listen to their promises.
 - They don't ask them to do a job.
 - They don't give them responsibility.
 - They do not depend on what they say.
 - They are not influenced by them.
 - They must learn reliability and a good work ethic elsewhere.
- Our families need to feel secure. That means that we must work hard to supply our own needs and are there when others are in need.

Be Materially Dependable

- 2Kings 18:21 - “Now look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.”
- Prov. 25:19 - “Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.”

Be Known For Friendliness

- Approachable, pleasant, responsive
 - Luke 11:5-8 - “And He said to them, Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him; 7 and he will answer from within and say, Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.”
 - Prov. 18:24 - “A man who has friends must himself be friendly...”

Be Known For Friendliness

- A quick way to lose influence with family is to be unfriendly toward others.
 - Rom. 12:20-21 - “Therefore If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Be Known For Friendliness

- I am unfriendly when I don't care.
 - Gal. 6:2 - “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
 - Job 6:14-15 - “To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, Even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty. 15 My brothers have dealt deceitfully like a brook, Like the streams of the brooks that pass away”

Be Known For Friendliness

- I am unfriendly when I don't care.
 - Job 19:13-14 - “He has removed my brothers far from me, And my acquaintances are completely estranged from me. 14 My relatives have failed, And my close friends have forgotten me.”
 - Psalm 35:13-16 - “But as for me, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart. 14 I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother. 15 But in my adversity they rejoiced And gathered together; Attackers gathered against me, And I did not know it; They tore at me and did not cease; 16 With ungodly mockers at feasts They gnashed at me with their teeth.”

Be Known For Friendliness

- I am unfriendly when I don't offer help.
 - Ex. 23:4-5 - “If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. 5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.”

Be Known For Friendliness

- I am unfriendly when I reveal secrets.
 - Prov. 11:13 - “A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.”
 - Prov. 17:9 - “He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.”

Be Known For Friendliness

- I am unfriendly when I forsake my friends in trouble.
 - Prov. 17:17 - “A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”
 - Prov. 27:10 - “Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.”

Be Known For Friendliness

- I am unfriendly when I selfishly make myself a burden to others.
 - Prov. 25:17 - “Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, Lest he become weary of you and hate you.”
 - Prov. 27:14 - “He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it will be counted a curse to him.”

Be Known For Friendliness

- Relatives notice this; foolish Christians think their families are oblivious.
 - Prov. 27:17, 19 - “As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend... 19 As in water face reflects face, So a man's heart reveals the man.”

Be Even Tempered

- The Bible warns against being quick tempered or spending time with those who are.
 - Ecc. 7:9 - “Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools.”
 - Prov. 22:24-25 - “Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, 25 Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.”
 - Prov. 14:17, 29 - “A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of wicked intentions is hated... 29 He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.”

Be Even Tempered

- “My life is in the hands of any fool who makes me lose my temper.” (Joseph Hunter)
- Those who lose their tempers also lose their ability to influence their children and others for good.
 - Prov. 25:28 - “Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.”

Be Even Tempered

- Prov. 16:32 - “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”
- Prov. 19:19 - “A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.”
- Prov. 29:22 - “An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression”
- James 1:20 - “... the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

Be Even Tempered

- No one wants to be around an angry man.
 - Prov. 27:3 - “A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, But a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them.”
 - Prov. 15:18 - “A wrathful man stirs up strife, But he who is slow to anger allays contention.”

Be Even Tempered

- The angry man forces those nearest to him into turmoil and everything he does ends in ruins.
 - Prov. 30:33 - “For as the churning of milk produces butter, And wringing the nose produces blood, So the forcing of wrath produces strife.”

Be Careful In Word

- The mouth can quickly get one into trouble and ruin his influence.
 - Ecc. 9:17 - “Words of the wise, spoken quietly, should be heard Rather than the shout of a ruler of fools.”
 - Ecc. 5:3 - “A fool's voice is known by his many words.”

Be Careful In Word

- Prov. 10:19 - “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise”
- Prov. 18:6-7 - “A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows. 7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.”
- Job 13:5 - “Oh, that you would be silent, and it would be your wisdom!”

Be Careful In Word

- Boasters
 - Prov. 27:2 - “Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.”
- Whiners
 - Jude 16 - “These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.”

Be Careful In Word

- To be viewed as wise by your children and exercise a righteous influence:
- Let your words be few.
 - Prov. 10:20 - “The tongue of the righteous is choice silver.”

Be Careful In Word

- Let your words be well chosen.
 - Prov. 15:28 - “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.”
- Let your words be well spoken.
 - Col. 4:6 - “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

List Of Behaviors Of Christians Who Successfully Influenced Their Families For The Lord

- The absence of profanity at home and all other places - Eph. 4:29
- A visible warm love between family members - Eph. 5:29
- A love for the brethren and sacrificing time to help them - 1Peter 2:17
- Only morally upright forms of entertainment at all times - James 1:22
- Having an active prayer life
- Extending hospitality - Rom. 12:13
- Faithful in worshiping with other Christians; refuses to use cop out excuses to stay home - Heb. 10:24
- Involved in saving the lost and other works of the local church
- Rejoicing in the fact that you are a Christian - Phil. 4:4

List Of Behaviors Of Christians Who Successfully Influenced Their Families For The Lord

- Make the effort to get your family to get together and activities that involve other Christians.
- Invite family to Gospel meetings and help organize transportation for them; attend the meeting faithfully.
- Limit the amount of time between contacts with them.
- Have regular and deep spiritual conversations with them - Deut. 6:7
- Do not turn your head when you see your family walking the wrong path.
- Make it clear by word and example that God's laws take precedence over your own opinions.
- Make it clear that your family takes precedence over your career, but not over your service to the Lord.
- Worship and Bible study takes precedence over ALL sports, hobbies, school activities, homework, and household chores.

List Of Behaviors Of Christians Who Successfully Influenced Their Families For The Lord

- Honoring God and obeying His word takes precedence over everything else - John 14:15
- Have fellowship and strong relationships with faithful Christians.
- Talk about your faith frequently.
- Show them that convictions take precedence over convenience.
- Make it a priority to find and work with an energetic, growing congregation. Do not choose a congregation because of convenience or short services.
- Remember the impact of your choice of career or residence on your family. Remember what living in Sodom did to Lot's family.
- Don't sacrifice your eternal future for short term interests.

List Of Behaviors Of Christians Who Successfully Influenced Their Families For The Lord

- Adults in the family need to be equally strong morally and spiritually.
- Love your family openly and honorably - 1Cor. 13:4-7
- Discipline yourself and your children - Prov. 22:15
 - He said the rod of corrections, not the pat of disappointment, or the verbal shouting match, or the insipid time out - Prov. 23:13
- As much as is possible and reasonable, protect them from the influence of the world - 1Cor. 15:33

God's Instructions for Those Who Live with Unsaved Family

- We don't develop courage by being happy every day. We develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity. Anyone can give up, it's the easiest thing in the world to do. But to hold it together when everyone else would understand if you fell apart, that's true strength. (Barbara De Angelis)