



**Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009: The Family and Kingdom
Responsibilities**

Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-4

Sermon Notes:

1. The family is God's basic institution, and the church is God's family, of which Christ is head.
2. The true and only source of power in life is not violence, money, or political office, but the Holy Spirit, and His power manifest in a life of obedience to the gospel of God.
3. The gospel is by definition, *transformational* -- it is "the power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16). So the cause of transformation and renewal in our society is first and foremost the gospel of Christ — His salvation and Lordship, the declaration of His kingdom.
4. As we are transformed by a full-orbed gospel, our families, and thereby the church, will be transformed and prepared to engage culture at every level. Consequently, humanism and anti-Christianity in its various forms has relentlessly and logically attacked the family.
5. Many of the laws which through recent centuries guarded the family were the product of the greatest legal revolution in history which was spearheaded by the Roman Emperor Justinian and his wife, Theodora. These laws were founded upon the law of Moses. Today, another revolutionary effort is being made in Western society today to reverse the great steps Empress Theodora made.
6. There are three basic powers in any society. The first is the control of children, the second is the control of property, and the third is inheritance. Revolution aims at the seizure of these basic powers.

7. The family has power in society and it has power in the church and through the church. That is why to attack the family is the surest way to destroy Christianity.
8. The key to the future and godly power is to develop and empower the Christian family.

Application Questions:

1. Why is the family so important to the survival of the church?
2. Have I been paying attention to the ways in which the family is being attacked today, in light of how important the family is to the survival of the church?
3. Have I been diligent to see what God's Word teaches me about marriage, children, and education?
4. Am I seeking to be transformed by God's Word and gospel? Is my family?
5. In light of what we have learned, what is God calling us to do and what would He require of us?