**Building Your Family Culture**

We all get it.  Today’s culture is toxic to our families.  Smart Phones take over our kid’s lives, and our lives.    The whole “alternative sexuality, LGBTQ thing” dominates our society and our kids are listening . . . maybe even being shaped by it.   For some of us it’s even more basic, we’re just stressed to the max and we don’t know the last time we had a peaceful, family dinner.   The schools teach a world view that’s openly hostile to our faith.   Our kids' friends are messed up . . . sometimes our friends our messed up.   And, when compared with Biblical standards, we might even be a little bit messed up.

It’s a culture war.  Right?  Nobody knows that like today’s Christian parent.

What do you do?  Well, *if it’s a culture then it’s a war of cultures*.  What’s happening is that the culture of the world is overwhelming the culture of family . . . maybe even our families.   That antidote against this toxic culture begins with building our own healthy family culture.  Let’s make the culture of our families stronger than the culture of the world.  God will help us.

Pastor Nate Atwood and his wife Helen, Pastor Emeritus Percy Burns and his wife Sara Jo, and our youth directors Dan and Lesley Cheevers want to help you strengthen your family culture.  Towards that end we are announcing a fall Sunday School class then will team teach which is targeted towards parents.  Their prayer is that they pray will equip you in some of the essentials of building family culture in today’s world.  The topics will include real world stuff like:

* Smart phones, media, and my kids.  What’s the effect of “the screen”?  What are healthy boundaries and are there tools to help me?
* What do you say when you kid comes home and says, “My teacher said today that it’s okay for boys to kiss boys”?  How can we equip our kids to think and speak biblically in a world of gender confusion?
* How do I handle romance, sex, and dating for my kids?
* How do I drug-proof my kids?
* How do I establish a home with high, Biblical standards and yet not become legalistic?
* How do you raise kids who love purity in a culture of compromise, kids who are idealistic in a culture of cynicism, kids who are optimistic in a culture of despair, hardworking kids in a culture of entitlement, thinking kids in a culture of video games?
* How do I bring the Lord meaningfully into the center of our home?  How do I impart Christ to my kids in a real life, heart driven manner?
* What are simple things we can do to build the culture of family in an over-committed world?  What’s a reasonable week look like?
* How do I make home the center of life for our family?

Here’s what we know about family.  God is for it.  In fact, God established family and it is one of His “institutions”.  Because of this we can be confident that the Lord will get behind us in our attempts and desires to build a strong culture of family within our homes. We’re not on our own.  Between them, the Atwoods, Burns, and Cheevers have decades of experience in raising kids, grandkids, being married, mentoring others, teaching school as well as homeschooling, and ministering to youth.  They share six undergraduate degrees and four advanced degrees, as well a wealth of life experience.   By no means have they done it perfectly but they’ve faced the issues you face and thought through them in light of Scripture.

 We hope you’ll take advantage of this 8 week Sunday School class which begins on Sunday, September 10th at 9:30 am.  We also will be offering the same class, in somewhat abbreviated fashion, during Ignite which begins on Wednesday, October 18th.  All classes will also be recorded and available online.

