

Prayer Guide for 13 to 19 November

“I believe the family was established long before the church, and my duty is to my family first. I am not to neglect my family.” Dwight L. Moody

Christians have so much instruction from Christ, Paul, the prophets and others about family life, bringing up children, caring for the elderly. In Proverbs 22 v 6 we read “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Paul, in his letter to the Church at Ephesus gives very clear guidelines for family living as does Peter. Christ affirmed marriage and blessed children.

In our modern secular world, so much has changed in family life. Shelton Smith writes that “Parental rights are so seriously eroded that families can no longer legally exercise the kind of controls that they ought to be able to exercise. And our families are in serious trouble because of it.” We hear stories of children disowning their parents, parents being sued by their children (In the USA, anyway) and parents needing to be oh, so careful in punishing misdemeanours in their children.

When we marry, we swear to stay together, “till death do us part”. Yet nearly 25% of all marriages end in divorce. The figure is dropping, though, but only because so many couples live together without marrying!

Statistics South Africa has released a report showing that 21% of women have suffered violence from their partners, an unacceptably high figure. In 2016 for the first time, statistics were released showing that over 40% of children have suffered some form of abuse, be it physical, emotional or sexual.

Lord, we bring before you

- † All families, that they may walk close to You.
- † The dysfunctional families, beset with arguments, disharmony, lack of parenting skills and substance abuse.
- † Families beset with violence, whether to spouses or children
- † The perpetrators of violence, that they may recognise the pattern of violence in themselves and come to know You as their Saviour.
- † The many organisations that are involved in counselling, in providing safe havens for victims of family violence.

We pray, too,

- † For our church, celebrating its centenary.
- † For our Manse family, that they may enjoy their time away.



FAMILY IS NOT AN IMPORTANT THING.

IT'S EVERYTHING!

Michael J Fox