

BECOMING A FOUNDATIONAL FAMILY

TEXT: (Matthew 7:25, NIV)

²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

INTRODUCTION

1. "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, KJV).

I. RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BODY

A. The Body of Christ

1. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (I Corinthians 12:27, NIV).

B. Members Respect One Another

1. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:9-13, NIV).

C. A Living Body

1. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (I Peter 2:5, KJV).

II. RECOGNIZES DIVINE ORDER

A. Foundational Families Recognize the Bible as God's Word

1. "Jesus replied, 'You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God'" (Matthew 22:29, NIV).
2. "You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother—my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:5-6, NIV).

B. Foundational Families Recognize Pastoral Leadership

1. "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7, NIV).
2. "Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit" (Hebrews 13:17, NLT).
3. "Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work" (I Thessalonians 5:12-13, NIV).

C. Foundational Families Love Holiness

1. "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15, NIV).
2. "Let those who love the LORD hate evil" (Psalm 97:10, NIV).

III. RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO BE COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE

A. They Will Be in Church

1. "With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity" (Romans 12:1-2, PHILLIPS).
2. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing" (II Timothy 4:7-8, NIV).

B. Committed to the Cause of Christ

1. "They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.
The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name" (Acts 5:40-42, NIV).

C. Committed to the Church's Mission

1. "And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith" (Matthew 13:58, NIV).