

# 7 Ways to Put the Church in the Center of Your Home

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## Introduction

- i. There is a Godhead [often called, the Holy Trinity] (Col. 2:9; cf. 2 Cor. 13:14).
- ii. The church is important to each member of the Godhead.
  - a. God, the Son "Preached" about the church.
  - b. God, the Father "Promised" the church.
  - c. God, the Spirit "Predicted" the church.
- iii. To ensure that the church is important to us and to our families, let's go to the day the church was established on earth and see what we might need to be emphasizing.

## 1. A "Condition" Must Be Known (Acts 2:21ff)!

- a. Peter's sermon – Old Testament quoted to defend and begin: "[W]hoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."
  - (1) Peter identified Jesus as the LORD on whose name to call (Acts 2:22-36).
  - (2) Peter specified what those present needed to do to call on His name (Acts 2:37-40).
- b. We must teach our families that we are lost and need a Savior (Rom. 3:9, 23; cf. 1 John 4:14).

## 2. A "Christ" Must Be Preached (Acts 2:22-36)!

- a. Peter's sermon – *Jesus of Nazareth...this Jesus...God has made...both Lord and Christ.*
  - (1) Peter emphasized Jesus' Lordship via His crucifixion, resurrection and coronation (Acts 2:22-32).
  - (2) Peter applied his thoughts to the sinners present (Acts 2:33-36).
- b. We must teach our families about Jesus...the only way we have access to God (John 14:6; Eph. 2:18).

## 3. A "Crisis" Must Be Experienced (Acts 2:37-38a)!

- a. Peter's sermon – *when they heard...they were cut to the heart, and said, "What shall we do?" Then Peter said...*
  - (1) Peter's words struck a nerve of corporate contrition [*they were cut*] (Acts 2:37).
  - (2) Peter's words gave those present personal attention [*every one of you*] (Acts 2:38a).
- b. We must teach our families that sin is something for which we should be greatly concerned (2 Cor. 5:17).

## 4. A "Change" Must Be Expected (Acts 2:38b)!

- a. Peter's sermon – *Repent...*
  - (1) Peter gave them a command [*repent*, an imperative active verb] (Acts 2:38).
  - (2) Peter gave them a command to personally change [*repent*, literally, "change thinking"] (Acts 2:38).
- b. We must teach our families that we can/must change, and thus, alter our destiny (Acts 3:19).

## 5. A "Cleansing" Must Be Encouraged (Acts 2:38b)!

- a. Peter's sermon – *be baptized for the remission of your sins...*
  - (1) Peter gave them a second command [*be baptized*, an imperative verb] (Acts 2:38b).
  - (2) Peter gave them a second command to submit to an act [*be baptized*, a passive verb] (Acts 2:38).
- b. We must teach our families that, at the point of baptism, Jesus' blood takes away our guilt (Eph. 1:7).

## 6. A "Concern" Must Be Manifested (Acts 2:39-40)!

- a. Peter's sermon – *with many other words he testified and exhorted them, "Be saved..."*
  - (1) Peter expounded on the need of those present [and did so "with many other words"] (Acts 2:40a).
  - (2) Peter exhorted those present to address their need with God's solution [*Be saved*] (Acts 2:40b).
- b. We must teach our families that nothing is more important than our being saved (Matt. 16:24-26).

## 7. A "Continuity" Must Be Shared (Acts 2:41-47)!

- a. Peter's sermon – *they continued steadfastly...continuing daily*
  - (1) Peter's new brethren were steadfast [*they continued steadfastly*] (Acts 2:41-43).
  - (2) Peter's new brethren were single-minded [*continuing daily with one accord*] (Acts 2:44-47).
- a. We must teach our families that we have responsibilities after we are saved (Rev. 2:10).

## Conclusion

- i. A grandson asked his grandfather, "Papa, can you see God?" and, to that astute question, the grandfather replied, "Son, the older I get, He is just about all I see...or care to see!"

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- ii. Colossians 3:1-4 – NOTE: God is first in my life?
  - a. His kingdom and His righteousness are (Matt. 6:33); but, God is not first in my life...HE IS MY LIFE!
  - b. When we feel that way, His church will be at the center of our lives and our family's as well.