

Taken from a portion of his recent sermon

While taking a walk around our neighborhood with my son this morning, we talked about our family being a community and our church being a Body. I hope that all of us will look forward to our families growing into a tighter community and then into a nation like Abraham's.

My wife and I look at CHEF as part of that community and have labored these many years toward that end. Many have joined us in that vision, but there are still many floundering in the sea of cultural detachment that has inculcated us toward destruction. So where are you today? What is your vision? Have you caught the vision that God mandated from the beginning? It starts first within our homes, so where are yours?

Historically, families understood that God worked within covenants with families, and thus they imparted that strength through the way they talked and walked with their children. Thus, children were raised with an understanding that the family farm and/or the family business was to be passed from generation to generation to covenant keepers who worked and lived in the context of their family covenant.

Since God always works through covenants with families, we must depart from the suppositions we developed from our daily observations of ungodly families drawn from television viewing and from our socialistic public school education. We must depart from that ungodly structure of age segregation practiced in our churches and instead focus on the vision imparted in scripture and on the strength that is drawn from families that look down the road generationally—families who keep their children close to form that tight community. This understanding is crucial and one that Candy and I deeply long to sear upon your hearts and minds.

Most people are deceived to think that their learning centers and their churches are communities. First of all most of those entities are not filled with like minded Christians but a mishmash of conflicting principles, doctrines, and vision, which in truth creates confusion and chaos. Candy and I continually talk about the disparity we see amongst our families who go to churches and groups yet don't continue in covenant with those families for any length of time. We know because we continue through the years to attend these families' birthdays, graduations, weddings, and funerals. And quite frankly, for the most part, we are the only consistent family, year after year, outside family members.

Part of the problem is that we don't look at families as communities, but if we don't look at our families that way, it is tough to look at the church that way.

Certainly, people are difficult to get along with, making it easy to circumvent deep relationships. Sloughing off those who rub us the wrong way is the norm today, while we happily go on our way to the next friends, the next church, the next activity. Yet first and foremost, we must understand that community starts first in our hearts and minds, and as leaders of our homes, it must begin in the hearts of the fathers so that they may teach their children and their children's children the way of the Lord in remaining faithful to the family covenant.

I grieve over the way I started my life and over the fact that I did not have someone bringing me along and guiding me. I grieve over how I wasted the first years of my life because there was not one person pointing or directing where I should be going. It was not until I met Candy and caught that vision that dominated her thinking.

Isn't it wonderful that God shows His people the way to go? In my own life God has shown me in so many ways that His way is best. His way and our way is all about family, thus the name of this newsletter, There's No Place Like Home, for home forms the foundation of all society. That is what we thirst and hunger for, a community of our children's children's children—a community of like-minded Christians going forward with us in taking dominion of our

church, our local government, our state government, and eventually our country. So as we look at property for our family farm, we look with an eye for expanding across the area for our children's children and other like minded homeschoolers.

Where Are You Taking Your Children?

I often ask fathers, "Where are you taking your family?" for the fact of the matter is that no matter what you are doing or not doing, you are taking them somewhere.

If we had fathers who had planted those ideas in our minds and taught us as we walked with them, our country would be strong today instead of rapidly descending into pagan barbarism.

Many years ago, I shared with a friend how overwhelmed we were with all our responsibilities, but instead of offering to be a part of our vision and the work, he recommended that we give up some of them. Hopefully, you are not like him but more like our support group leaders who when we told them we were stepping down and moving on, they responded that we were not going anywhere because God would not let us go for the reason that He had a tremendous work for us.

Candy and I get discouraged once in a while struggling with all our duties. At times we want to quit CHEF and quit the church and just watch our cows munch on grass. I am sure you can relate this to your own lives where you just want to be rid of your responsibilities. But praise God, He has put it in our hearts to keep going, for it is He who is faithful to the covenant. He is the just and the justifier. It is He who keeps us going in working toward community so that each generation does not have to start over, but will continue in covenant as a community of families.

Most of us don't understand covenants, but we are working on that understanding. And as we go through Exodus, we see that Israel did not quite understand either, but God worked through them nonetheless.

God's people perish because of lack of vision, because of lack of knowledge. But with that vision for our children's children and the knowledge of covenant, God's people will not perish but will prosper and flourish. As Paul Jehle stated in one of his CHEF workshops, God blesses nations through family continuity. Continuity means "connection uninterrupted; cohesion, close union of parts; unbroken; the unbroken and consistent existence or operation of something over a period of time; a state of stability and the absence of disruption."

Candy's and my desire is that you have a vision for your children's children and that you live out that vision in everything that you do. In fact, our mission since the inception of our leadership, has been Leading with a vision-Raising generations for God's throne room. We began our leadership with a Family Dynasty conference and have continued that vision to now become Covenantal families of Covenant Keepers faithfully equipping generations! So just as God called Abraham in Psalm 78, He has called each of us to teach our children His law shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that He hath done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children, that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born who should arise and declare them to their children that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." This scripture has been our continuous focus and the impetus for our labor. And as God has worked through Candy and me these past 26 years to faithfully equip multiple generations of our families, He will continue through our children's children. This is where we are going and where

we are taking our CHEF families.</p> <p> ♦</p> <p> God chose each of us before the foundation of the world. And just as my children are made in my image, so, too, we are made in our Father’s image. This is significant because it is He who is causing us to walk in the works He prepared for us before the foundation of the world. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).</p> <p> ♦</p> <p> As we study how God brings this wonderful story of redemption to His people, the people of Abraham and the multitude of those that came out of Abraham, as heirs with Abraham, God is still leading us. Praise God for His faithfulness and His timelessness that His Word is true; that He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow; that we can count on Him and His Word forever and ever. This is our hope, our only hope, that we are able to keep the law through Christ as He has written it on our hearts. He is still making us a nation of families taking dominion for His glory.</p> <p> ♦</p> <p> It was a pretty good talk that I had with Josiah. My prayer is that you will take every opportunity to disciple your own children with this vision.</p>