

SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES JOSH. 24:14-24

Successful families are all successful alike (at least at the core)

Unsuccessful families are all unsuccessful in their own way!

4 characteristics:

1. A family where the **faith** is assumed

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**

Maybe this is the greatest predictor of success or failure for a family!

Families that fail: Choose or choose not to

- **Going to church**
- **Tithing**
- **Joining in**
- **Missions**
- **Witnessing**
- **Not drinking**
- **Traveling on Sunday**
- **SS, SM, SN, WN**
- **AWANA**

The parents generally choose to do those things

The children **either choose to do so much less or not at all.**

Families that succeed **never choose - this is an assumption / a given**

This is:

- **Who we are**
- **What we do**
- **How we live**

We are...!

2. A family where the **parents** are in charge / control

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, **we will serve the LORD.**

Joshua never even asked his children permission!

What does this mean / look like?

- **The parents are in control of themselves – that is self-control**

Proverbs 16:32 He that is slow to anger is **better than** the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit **than** he that taketh a city.

Proverbs 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Acts 24:25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, **temperance (ἐγκρατείας)**, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **Galatians 5:23** Meekness, **temperance (ἐγκράτεια)**: against such there is no law.

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; **2 Peter 1:6** And to knowledge temperance (τὴν ἐγκράτειαν); and to temperance (τῆ ἐγκρατεία) patience; and to patience godliness; **2 Peter 1:7** And to godliness

brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. **2 Peter 1:8** For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 1:9** But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Titus 1:8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate (ἐγκρατῆ);

- **Parents can say “no” to their own impulses, instincts & emotions**
- **Parents who can then control their children**
- **Parent who can do so in a loving, reasonable way**
- **Parents who can teach their children self-control**

3. A family where truth & sincerity are central!

Joshua 24:14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: **and** put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; **and serve ye the LORD. Joshua 24:15** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day **whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:16** And the people answered and said, **God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; Joshua 24:19** And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. **Joshua 24:20** If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. **Joshua 24:21** And the people said unto Joshua, **Nay; but we will serve the LORD.**

4. A family where God is actually served

Joshua 24:14 Now therefore fear the LORD, **and serve** him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers **served** on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; **and serve ye the LORD. Joshua 24:15** And if it seem evil unto you to **serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:19** And Joshua said unto the people, **Ye cannot serve the LORD**: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. **Joshua 24:20** If ye forsake the LORD, **and serve strange gods**, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. **Joshua 24:21** And the people said unto Joshua, **Nay; but we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:22** And Joshua said unto the people, **Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. Joshua 24:23** Now therefore **put away**, said he, the strange gods which are among you, **and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. Joshua 24:24** And the people said unto Joshua, **The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.**

There is probably much more to this but at a minimum:

- **The local church is the child’s church**
- **The child joins in worship **with** the parents**
- **The child **serves** in the ministries of the church**

- **The child serves **with** their gifts, passions, interests & abilities**
- **The child serves **according to** their age &/ maturity & schedule**
- **The child is connected **with** the church (=people)**
- **The child **never** leaves & comes back → this is just part of what you do!**

If the family is a hit & miss family – what should they expect?