

TEN LAWS OF FAMILY SUPPORT

The Apostle Paul instructed the Corinthian Church, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Corinthians 1:10) Paul is encouraging them to speak and believe the same thing!

Unity holds tremendous power and produces awesome results. God will encourage relationships between people who have like assignments from Him. Has God put you in partnership - by marriage or friendship - with someone who has similar goals, interests, or concerns? Are you accomplishing His purpose for your family?

Law One: The Law of Purpose

Acts 18:2, 26; Romans 16:3-5

Do you know what your assignment from God is? If you're not sure, examine areas of sensitivity you may have concerning certain aspects of Christian life. Usually, heightened areas of sensitivity or awareness are God's direction of purpose for your life. For example: Do you find yourself keenly interested in what is happening with our children's or youth ministry? Are you more sensitive than average to the fact that newcomers need to feel welcomed or included? Do you feel passionate about financial or marital stability in the lives of Christians? Are you driven to present the Gospel to the lost or encourage Believers with the Word? What are you passionate about?

Law Two: The Law of Agreement

Acts 5

Ananias and Sapphira acted in the principle of agreement, and that is why they were judged. Husband and wife is the most powerful form of agreement on earth. Adam and Eve agreed together to sin, and it cost the world all the resultant suffering. "Two are better than one" (Ecclesiastes 4:9). "If two of you shall agree on earth . . ." (Matthew 18:19).

Law Three: The Law of Failure

Ecclesiastes 4:10

Since we are all imperfect, it is a certainty that we will fail in our ministry at some point along the way, but don't be discouraged. God doesn't have His hammer ready to swing, so our failure is never final. Instead, He extends forgiveness for our failures and the encouragement we need to keep us moving forward. Though uplifting words can be found throughout the Scripture, God also chooses to use others to support and encourage us.

Law Four: The Law of Hospitality

2 Kings 4:9-10

This couple decided to add an addition to their home for Elisha. The woman "felt" the need, and her husband "built" the need. God blessed them with a miracle child, despite the husband's advanced age. Fruitfulness and favor come upon a couple who will give of their hospitality in order to further the ministry.

Law Five: The Law of Order

1 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Kings 21:25

To everything in life, there is an order that makes it a success or a failure. Marriages fail when God's order of authority is disregarded. In like manner, businesses are crippled when the employees attempt to control the employer, and church fellowship unravels when individuals within the body attempt to overthrow the authority of its pastor and leadership. There is chaos in the home where parents have relinquished control, allowing a strong-willed 2-year-old or a rebellious teen to "rule the roost."

Law Six: The Law of Balance

1 Samuel 25:32-33

A partnership of God, whether one of marriage or one of friendship, will be one of balance. Apart from this relationship, you would be "too" something - too harsh or too soft, too quiet or too talkative, too passive or too aggressive. But, together, you are balanced, and, therefore, more effective.

Law Seven: The Law of Priesthood

Genesis 7:1; Luke 1:6

When God calls, He wants it all. He certainly wants you all as an individual, but He wants your family as well. The call of God, though it may begin with you, is never meant to end with you. You may be the first to answer, but you're not meant to be the last. When God told Noah to build the ark, the whole family entered the ark. When Abraham was instructed to leave home for parts unknown, his entire family went with him - herds and all! When He called Moses to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage, the family went with him with his brother, Aaron at his side.

Law Eight: The Law of Inheritance

Malachi 4:6; Psalm 128:3

Every transfer of Godly values results in multiplied blessings in the next generation. Whether it's values from biological parents to children (like Abraham to Isaac) or from spiritual fathers to their spiritual children (like Elijah to Elisha), it's values all the same - values that can be passed down from generation to generation to generation. And as each generation adds its own choices and knowledge of Godliness, the next generation can reap even more anointing and walk in even greater power.

Law Nine: The Law of Peace

I Corinthians 7:10-16

Being married to an unsaved person does not mean you can divorce him or her. By Pharaoh's command, Joseph was married to a heathen priestess, and yet he remained in the marriage (Gen. 41:45). God can use your presence as an influence on the children and the partner (1 Corinthians 10:14). If the unbeliever is abusive, separation should be realistically considered for safety. The general rule is "peace," maintaining marriage and tranquility at any and all costs.

Law Ten: The Law of Self-Control

1 Corinthians 7:8-9

Before entering any relationship, we should weigh its impact on our ministry. Any relationship God would ordain will never be one that subtracts from what He has gifted and called you to do but will be a relationship that will add to and move you toward the fulfillment of your ministry.