**How can our families be restored to God’s Good Design?**

**By Establishing Godly Priorities**

Joshua 24:15 “*As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!*”

**Introduction:**

What is most important to you in life? Make a list of those things in life which are truly most important to you.

**Biblical Priorities:** *(adapted from Pastor John MacArthur: Biblical Parenting for Life series)*

**I. Commitment to the Lord !**

 A. Exodus 20:1-6

 *Ten Commandments … no other gods; no idolatry … applies in all areas of life*

 B. Matthew 22:36-40

 *This is our highest duty to perform/ this is our greatest responsibility/ foremost priority – this is what you and I owe God! All = intensity; total abandonment*

 C. Matthew 6:33

 *Pursue as highest priority*

 D. Additional Scripture illustrations: *(choose 2; look up and discuss)*

 i) Psalm 42:1-*2 as the deer pants for the water*

 ii) Psalm 73:25-26 *whom have I in heaven but You*

 iii) Jeremiah 9:23-24 *let him who boasts … that he understands and knows Me*

 iv) Luke 9:23-26 *if anyone wishes to come after Me*

 v) Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ*

 vi) Philippians 1:21 *for to me to live is Christ*

 vii) Colossians 1:10 *walk in a manner worthy of the Lord*

**II. Commitment to the Word !** (Scripture teaches us about God and how we are to live)

 A. Psalm 19:7-11; 119

 B. 2 Timothy 3:15-17

 C. 2 Peter 1:3-4

**III. Commitment to Family !**

To your spouse …

 Ephesians 5:21-33

Responsibility of husband to your wife = shepherd her … *(learner, lover, servant-leader)*

This includes: **leading** … with love as Christ loved the church *(humbly; sacrificially)*

… **feeding** – washing her with the Word

… **providing for** – nourish

… and **protecting** – cherish (have tender care for her)

 Responsibility of a father to your children = shepherd them

Includes the same things: **leading, feeding, providing for and protecting**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *(Word must be in your heart before you can pass it on to your children)*

 Do you have Biblical content built into your daily life at home? ... are you training up/ bringing up/ your children in the instruction of the Lord? Where’s the evidence?

**IV. Commitment to Others !**

1. The Church

 Hebrews 10:23-25

1. The World

 Matthew 28:18-20