

I saw a Spurgeon devotional this morning, which dealt with wanting and praying for salvation for all members of one's household; what he referred to as the “church in our house”. Naturally, we in our households who know the Lord Jesus Christ, pray for the salvation of those who don't; and that is as it should be.

But the great preacher was smart enough to know that even when one is “saved”, and even a member of a church, proper God-glorifying behavior may not always be as forthcoming as it ought to be.

Perhaps especially in families, we can tend to let our guards down, so to speak. Our manner becomes unguarded, our habits can develop as if there are no others living with us, but the household revolves around us.

In Scripture, we are admonished for our *public* lives and our *household* lives, to consider others more highly than ourselves. Observe this admonition from the Apostle Paul, as he writes to the Philippian church...

Php 2:1 *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and acts of compassion,*

2 *fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, intending the same purpose,*

3 *doing nothing according to selfish ambition or conceit, but with humility, regarding one another as being better than yourselves.*

4 *Let each of you look out not only for his own concerns, but also for the concerns of others.*

Oh my! Far from “letting our guard down” in our own homes, we are admonished to do “... nothing according to selfish ambition or conceit, but... regard[ing] one another as being better than yourselves”.

One thing against which I have always railed (though having been guilty of it myself!) is, “church face”. Oh, you know what that is. It's the face we put on at church, which face contradicts the face that everyone in our home knows full well that we have.

If we even have a “church face”, then we are convicted of having two faces. Do you know what we call people with two faces? Two faced. Ouch.

To the Christian family - those with a “church in their home” - Spurgeon gives this final admonition, echoing what the Apostle Paul wrote to his Philippian friends.

“If there is such a church in our house, let us order it well, and let everyone conduct themselves as in the sight of God. Let us go about our daily routines with studied holiness, diligence, kindness, and integrity. More is expected of a church than of an ordinary household.

Family worship must, in such a case, be more devout and hearty; internal love must be warmer and unbroken, and external conduct must be more sanctified and Christlike.” (emphasis added)

Let us endeavor to avoid “church face”. Let our yay be yay, our nay be nay, and our love without hypocrisy (Rom 12:9), especially in our homes... for they are little churches after all.

Pastor