

## **Philosophy of Corporate Family Worship**

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The Bible instructs parents to train and nurture their children in the ways of the Lord. The primary spiritual growth of children must stem from the home. The Church exists to foster, encourage, and supplement what is (or, should be!) *already* taking place in the home throughout the week. It is the goal of the corporate gatherings of the Church to glorify God by teaching the Word of God to the people of God so that they can apply the Word of God to their own lives in the home, at school, at the workplace, and amongst friends and neighbors. CFBC is persuaded that the best way to encourage and foster this is to strongly encourage families to worship together—with the entire family—during the Sunday corporate gatherings. This leads to the following exhortation to families:

**CFBC encourages every member of the family to gather together and worship together in the corporate worship service on Sundays.**

The reasons for this persuasion are as follows:

1. The best way to encourage specific application of the Word of God from the proclamation of the Word is for the entire family to hear the same sermon, from the same text, and with the same application.
2. The historical practice throughout the history of the Church has been for families to corporately worship together.
3. When the entire family is together, it allows the preacher to address all age groups of the congregation in his sermon with specific application (including the young children!).
4. This teaches the children that from a very young age they must learn to sit still and listen when God speaks through His Word and when a man preaches and teaches from the Bible.
5. This ensures that the children are being taught the gospel faithfully and accurately every week as they hear the preacher explicate the glorious truths of the gospel weekly.
6. This teaches the children that they are not excused after the singing time and before the sermon to go to their own “church” and hear a different “message”. The children must learn that the preaching of God’s Word is necessary for all people of all ages.