
Sunday, January 28, 2018
Did You Know?

Why Should Children Attend the Worship Service?

This article was written by blogger and Pastor Jason Helopoulos, borrowed from thegospelcoalition.org. As you read this article realize the slight differences -- our children do not stay for the duration of our service as this author suggests, but his principles are applicable to us.

1. **Our children are members of the covenant community (the church):** Corporate Worship on Sunday is the primary activity the covenant community engages in together (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 10:24-25). Therefore, our children as members of this community should be included in this crucial aspect of covenantal life.
2. **Our children will be present in the midst of the means of grace:** Our children benefit by being where the Word is preached (Romans 10:14), the sacraments are administered (Matthew 28:19-20), and corporate prayer is practiced (Acts 2:42-47). These are the chief means by which God pours out grace upon His people. Why knowingly rob our children of this blessing?!
3. **Our children will be present in the midst of the entire congregation:** Our children benefit greatly by being in the presence of Christians of various ages. They are able to see that the faith of their parents is not a faith that they own alone, but is a faith that is important to all of these people who are gathered around them on Sunday morning. This only reinforces what Mom and Dad are modeling and teaching when they see this incredible gathering of people reading the Word together, praying together, confessing together, and singing together. They need to see the body in action.
4. **Our children will be present with their parents:** Worshipping together as a family helps to counter the current trend in our society of fragmenting our families. If our children join us in worship from four years of age until they are eighteen they will worship with their parents in 780 Sunday morning worship services! Think about the cumulative effect of a family worshipping together, in the midst of the means of grace, meeting with God for 780 Sundays in a row.
5. **Our children will witness their parents worshipping:** It is the Biblical role of parents to disciple their children in the faith (Deuteronomy 6; Psalm 78; Ephesians 6). What a benefit there is when children witness their mother or father singing with conviction, praying in reverence, listening intently to the sermon, or receiving the Lord's Supper in joy. In these moments a child witnesses the importance of faith and worship. There are few greater encouragements to a child's faith than seeing their parents worship God with reverence and joy.
6. **Our children will learn the rhythms of church life:** Teenagers in our culture often balk at attending corporate worship. But how many of our teenagers have we setup for this reaction, because we did not consistently include them in worship until they were a teenager. They must see, know, and learn that the singing of the great hymns of the faith, the preaching of the Word, reading of confessions, corporate prayers, etc. is anything but boring. It is the gathered life of the community of faith. It is our weekly rhythm—appointed by God, designed by Him, established for the ages—this is what we want them to know, because we want them to know and worship Him.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Pastor Peter