

Galatians 5:1 NIV – It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

II Corinthians 3:17 NIV – Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

D. Play Creates an Atmosphere of Joy

Romans 14:17 NAS – For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Joy has a way of spilling over into celebration, dance, and playfulness.

Godly play and godly humor spring up from genuine Spirit-produced joy. Christianity is supposed to be the “religion of joy.”

Nehemiah 8:10 AMP – Then Ezra told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And be not grieved and depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.

Psalm 126:5 AMP – They who sow in tears shall reap in joy and singing.

John 15:11 AMP – I have told you these things, that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing.

CONCLUSION

Will you allow the Holy Spirit to show you the importance of play in your life?

GOD’S DIVINE FAMILY

Part 3 – Family Fun

Debby Baril – Sunday, March 26, 2006

REVIEW

A FAMILY OF HONOR

1. Family Attitude – Humility
2. Family Behavior – Servanthood
3. Family Language - Life

A FAMILY OF FELLOWSHIP

1. Choosing to Belong – Members
2. Learning to Share – Friendship
3. Doing My Part – Partnership
4. Being Committed – Kinship

INTRODUCTION

A Christian should be joyful, and that joy should express itself in play and celebration.

I. GOD AND PLAY

A. In Creation

Proverbs 8:30-31 AMP – (30) Then I was beside Him as a master and director of the work; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing before Him always, (31) Rejoicing in His inhabited earth and delighting in the sons of men.

The word rejoicing in the Hebrew is: *saw-khak'*
Strong’s Concordance defines it as: to laugh; to play; to make merry; to mock; to rejoice; to make sport.

B. On the Earth

Many of Jesus' miracles happened while he was on the way to a festival, feast, or celebration. His first miracle took place at a wedding celebration.

John 2:10-11 AMP – (10) And said to them, Everyone else serves his best wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then he serves that which is not so good; but you have kept back the good wine until now! (11) This, is the first of His signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Jesus used humor and sarcasm in his parables – he said things that would have made the crowds giggle at the pictures he was painting in their minds.

II. BECOMING AS LITTLE CHILDREN

Matthew 18:2-3 AMP – (2) Jesus called a little child to Himself and put him in the midst of them, (3) And said, Truly I say to you, unless you repent (change, turn about) and become like little children (trusting, lowly, loving, forgiving), you can never enter the kingdom of heaven at all.

Mark 10:15 AMP – Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive and accept and welcome the Kingdom of God like a little child does shall not enter it at all. (Luke 18:17).

We omit the largest part of what forms a child's life – play! It is a vital and powerful part of the child's life and we are to receive the Kingdom of God with the energy, the enthusiasm, the innocence and the playfulness of a child.

III. THE POWER OF PLAY

A. Play Creates an Atmosphere for Learning

Play is a part of healthy growth and learning. It's good for the brain, the body and the emotions!

Children learn about sharing through play, they learn about teamwork through play, they learn about themselves through play.

B. Play Creates an Atmosphere for Bonding

One of the greatest tools for connecting with another person is play.

There is something about joking with each other, pushing each other, laughing – it really helps us not to take ourselves so seriously.

Our play time is just as important as our prayer time in forming relationships.

Playing with someone is often a prerequisite to receiving permission to speak into their lives.

C. Play Creates an Atmosphere of Freedom

The concerns of everyday life come to a temporary standstill.

In play we put aside our burdens, the heavy weights and we experience freedom and liberty to be like little children and enjoy the experience.

Play causes our defenses to come down. We take off our masks, we put aside our pride and we become like little children. Our laughter becomes pure with the ring of innocence and freedom.