

# The Table Principle

## ***The Table Principle Defined***

The Table Principle is a principle that helps preserve and protect the sanctity of family as God intended. All throughout the Bible, there is significance placed on coming around the table. The table was set and prepared (Exodus 25:23, 30; 26:35; 37:16; 40:4; Psalm 23:5; Proverbs 9:2). The table was a place of restoration (2 Samuel 9:7; Matthew 9:9-10; Luke 15:23b). The table was a place of honor (2 Kings 25:29; John 12:2-3; John 21:9-18). As it was in Bible times and still is today, the table has purpose. It is a place where meaningful conversation takes place, truth is shared, instructions are given, information is exchanged, learning is experienced, gratitude is offered, resolution is made and serving takes place (Luke 14:15-26).

## ***Making the Table a Priority***

Before we can fully embrace the Table Principle, we must take time to ask the Lord if there are any ways we have compromised this valuable principle, and take time to repent if needed so we can begin to make changes in our priorities. As Jesus ate His last meal with His only earthly family (Luke 22:19-20), we see Him prioritizing coming together around the table and demonstrating the frame of mind that we should also have as we come around our tables. Consider how you are to prioritize coming around the table in each day's schedule as you follow Christ's example.

## ***Making the Table a Place of Purpose***

The Lord has a purpose for your table. Coming around the table is relationship-building! As you plan each week, consider those who will come around your table. Through the years as family members grow, the time around the table will evolve. When children are younger, it can be a place for encouragement and teaching, instruction and correction, learning and listening, giving and receiving. As they grow and mature, time around the table will become more and more fulfilling as a family.

Also consider who you are to invite to come around your table. This might be a friend, a co-worker, someone in need of encouragement, someone who doesn't know Christ, etc. As you seek the Lord about who to invite to join you around your table, be willing to yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit and what He wants to show you.

***Making the Table a Place of Preparation***

As you prepare for your next meal, prepare for who will be sitting around your table. Set the table in advance, taking the opportunity to show younger family members how to properly set the table. Remember, even a simple and quickly put together table can be special. At times, paper plates and plastic flatware are just what’s needed. Focus on the preparation as just one of the ways to honor the Lord around your table.

***Making the Table a Place of Pleasure***

Coming around the table should be a place of pleasure. Consider how you are to create a welcoming atmosphere around your table so that it is a place of encouragement and edification, learning and growing, connecting and honoring. Also consider how you are to plan celebrations around the table.

***Your Response***

Take time to consider and list the changes that you will make in your home so that your family can live by the Table Principle so that you can continue to experience the presence of God around your table.

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