

Family Zeal¹
Nehemiah 3:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. In Nehemiah 3:12, we have women building stone walls.
2. Here was a father and his daughters uniting in a good work.
3. They remind us of how trust in God and a public spirit can combine to animate families.
 - a. Parents and their sons and daughters, uniting in the work of the Lord
 - b. Such families are the strength of the church.

DISCUSSION: The union of the family in the Lord's work...

I. Indicates proper education.

- A. It shows that parents have taught their children to take an interest in the work of the Lord and set before them an example.
- B. Parents should begin early to teach their young to contribute to good works.
- C. Cf. Proverbs 22:6.

II. Forms a sacred bond.

- A. Natural ties are sanctified.
- B. Parents and children are bound together in a holy fellowship (cf. 1 John 1:7).

III. Elevates family life.

- A. Unity in the Lord's work supplies objects of common interest, topics for conversation, subjects for prayer, and occasions for mutual encouragement.
- B. Such unity uplifts the thoughts, affections, motives, and aims above self-interest, worldliness, and vanity.
- C. No other pursuits can supply pleasures equal to those that spring from common service to God.

IV. Prepares young people for greater service.

- A. This supplies the Lord with a succession of well-qualified workers.
- B. Such families are the best nurseries for mission work.

¹ Based on "Family Zeal" by G. Wood in *The Pulpit Commentary, Nehemiah* (New York, NY: Funk & Wagnalls Company, n.d.), pp. 32, 33.

CONCLUSION:

1. Families that work together with the Lord are insuring a grand, family reunion in the heavenly home.
2. Let sons and daughters heartily cooperate with fathers and mothers in the resolve of Joshua (Josh. 24:15).