



Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshiping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

Family Life

By Peter deBruin

Not too long ago, I read an article in a large daily newspaper dealing with a study that suggested that families who had at least one meal together each day often exhibited closer and more cohesive family ties. It showed that children became better adjusted and tended to do better in school and in social relationships.

Today's social structures are such that to have the family together for anything -- even for a meal -- can be a great achievement. But no family would dream of not eating. It really is not that long ago since families engaged in doing things together - from playing games to enjoying the great outdoors - was the norm. More and more, even in the normal family structure, both husband and wife have their own careers which often circumvent the time spent together as a family. Many children learn their values from television, movies, and music instead of from their parents. Compounding this is the increasing emphasis on leisure time and living for the weekends. In our day of advanced technology and media evolution, much does stream into our homes which is not healthy. Home and family are often regarded as disposable property.

What needs to be done then? As a Canadian citizen educated under this country's Judeo-Christian basis and principles, I am suggesting that we re-establish and reawaken our Christian identity. Christian family values were and should continue to be the basis on which our society is built. The family unit needs to remain strong. The Christian home is not the place for self-centered, totalitarian interests, but one where everyone looks out for the good of others. For our children, family life is a training ground; for ourselves, it is a resource to equip us to interact with others in our local communities, and not least in our local church. In practice, it is that mutual respect and commitment that gives us a firm foundation, and our children the security that they need to face the future. What do you think?

Peter deBruin is a member of Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

<http://www.trinitycanrc.org>

Contact us at faithtalk@trinitycanrc.org