

Prayer for Families

By Pastor Steve Gaines

Heavenly Father, we come to you in Jesus' name, lifting up our Christian families to you in prayer. We thank you for the gift of our families. We are grateful that from the beginning of time, You have ordained "Family" as the first and foremost social unit on earth. You have shown us through the first marriage between Adam and Eve that the only type of marriage You ordain and approve is heterosexual and monogamous. That is, You only approve marriage between one man and one woman. Through such married, heterosexual, monogamous couples, You have designed that children be born and reared. That was Your original plan and design, it still is Your plan and design, and it always will be Your only plan and design for marriage.

Lord, our nation has deviated from your original design of "one man and one woman," and has embraced the unnatural, sinful union of homosexual marriage. For such a deviation from Your divine plan, we humbly ask You to forgive our nation. Forgive our elected officials for legalizing homosexual marriage. Forgive us for electing such officials who nominate judges who blatantly engage in judicial tyranny by fabricating sinful laws regarding marriage and blatantly forcing them upon all Americans. Please overturn the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that has legalized homosexual marriages. With men that might seem impossible, but not for You. All things are possible with You. Do it for Your glory! And please continue to bless every Biblical family in America, O Lord.

Bless every Christian husband in America. Help each of them to be faithful to You and to his wife. Help him to love his wife like Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Help him to live with her as with a delicate vessel. Help him to live with her in an understanding way and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life so that his prayers will not be hindered. Help each husband to be a Godly, Christlike, Spirit-filled man, to lead his wife and children well, and to be a praying man of God.

Bless every Christian wife in America. Help each of them to be faithful to You and to her husband. Help every wife to love and respect her husband and to pray for him as he leads their family. Help her to walk in moral purity and to focus on inner beauty instead of outward beauty. Help her to embrace her role as being "the heart" of the home, and to value her home as her

primary ministry, making it a haven of rest for her family. Help each wife to be a Godly, Christlike, Spirit-filled, praying woman of God.

Bless every father and mother in America. Help them to love You and their children, not provoking them to anger, but to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Help them to pray faithfully and fervently for their children, to share the Gospel with them, and to lead them to faith in Jesus Christ. Help them to pray with their children and disciple them in the Word of God and in the ways of Jesus. Help them to be actively involved in a Bible-believing, Christ-honoring church. Help them to model the life of Christ for their children and to be wise in the way they parent them. Give them grace and wisdom to rear Godly children in this very ungodly world.

Bless every Christian child in America. Help each child to love and respect his/her parents. Help each child to increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. May each child be taught of the Lord, and may the well-being of each child be great. Help our children to be morally pure, abstaining from premarital sex. Help them to remain virgins until they marry, and to marry virgins. For those who have sinned and deviated from sexual purity, help them to repent and receive Your grace and forgiveness and to begin living chaste, morally pure lives. Help each child to honor and obey his/her parents. In time, bless each child with a Godly, Christlike, Spirit-filled spouse, and help each married child to rear Godly children.

Lord, bless each single-parent family. Anoint and bless each father and mother who is bringing up his/her children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Help them not to feel isolated and discouraged. Provide every need they have as they seek to be faithful, Godly parents. Bless them with family members and friends who will help them bring up their children in the ways of Christ. Bless these single parents in tangible, special ways, and help our churches to love, support, and minister to them in every possible way.

Lord, help us to love our families, and to pray for and encourage our family members. May we be faithful to care for our aging parents and widows. Strengthen our families, and thereby strengthen Your churches. Help us to pray together, play together, and stay together. Bless our families and keep them, make Your face shine on them and be gracious to them, lift up Your countenance upon them and give them Your peace. In Jesus' name, Amen!