

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES IN THE HOME AND CHURCH

Christopher K. Lensch

- ***Christian Living in the Home* by Jay E. Adams** (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing)

Author Adams has the rare gift of making theology practical for daily living. The Bible, indeed, is a practical book. God has "...given us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3).

In a generation when the church is being feminized and the nuclear family is being attacked by culture and government, this book is sorely needed by Christian families. Adams lays out the biblical roles of husbands and wives with the duties of Christian parents in rearing their children. His whole thesis is the beauty of a Christ-centered home.

This book should be required reading for all newly-weds.

- ***The Family in Its Civil and Churchly Aspects* by B. M. Palmer** (reprinted by Sprinkle Publications)

This book is of such value in developing God's purpose for the family that Baptist publisher Lloyd Sprinkle says it had to come back into print despite its Presbyterian treatment of children in the covenant. Written in the mid-1800s, this work beautifully captures the freshness of the first family in paradise, a paradigm for all families.

Besides laying out the biblical theology of the family and how God preserves His chosen people through the generations, Palmer also has chapters on the inter-relations of members of the family, as well as subordinates to superiors.

This reprinted gem includes a bonus in the second half of the volume: J.W. Alexander's *Thoughts on Family Worship*.

- ***Life in the Father's House: A Member's Guide to the Local Church* by Wayne Mack and David Swavely** (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing)

Rather than one more book addressed to church leaders, Mack and Swavely have geared their message for communicant church members. As such *Life in the Father's House* makes a good manual for church membership classes.

An early chapter develops the rarely addressed subject of the biblical necessity of church membership as opposed to the trend of permanent “adherence” without commitment. This is followed by a balanced treatment of submission to Christ’s leaders in the church, as well as the roles of men and women in the church.

Besides exposition of the obligations of worship, fellowship, and service, the authors are careful to develop the doctrine of “confronting one another in love,” a theme in keeping with the book’s title.

- ***The Training of the Twelve* by A. B. Bruce** (reprinted by Kregel Publications)

This classic work on discipleship long has been a textbook at Western Reformed Seminary. For the best counsel on how to be a disciple of Christ, read this paradigm on how Jesus trained those nearest to Him.

- ***The Lost Art of Disciple Making* by Leroy Eims** (Zondervan and NavPress)

This popular work promoted by the Navigators puts as much emphasis on how to disciple others as it does on defining discipleship. It is a useful book for reminding modern evangelicals that the Great Commission is more than winning souls—it is “making disciples.”

- ***Biblical Church Discipline* by Daniel Wray** (Banner of Truth)

This handy booklet marshals the Scripture passages for the basis, necessity, levels, and objects of church discipline. In an age of “I’m OK, you’re OK,” this work is valuable for its final section that answers objections to church discipline.

- ***Handbook of Church Discipline* by Jay Adams** (Zondervan)

Dr. Adams carefully develops the basis and process for dealing with willful sinners in the church. Church leaders must deal with them to protect the honor of Christ and to keep the leaven of open sin from spreading. Hopefully, remedial discipline with prayer will have the desired result of restoring a wayward brother or sister (Gal. 6:1,2; James 5:19-20).

Churches that will not police themselves (in preventative and remedial ways) really are no churches because they refuse to make a distinction between the practices of the church and the world.

This is a thorough work on an important subject.