

FAMILY MATTERS: INVESTING IN THE THINGS THAT LAST

LOOKING AHEAD TO THINGS THAT LAST

GENESIS 1:26–27; 2:18, 24–25



The Heart of the Matter

Think hard about this question for just a moment: What in your life will endure the test of time; what will withstand the ups and downs of the future? Life is lived in the present, but there is a future coming, even if many live as if the future doesn't matter, as if the choices we make today will not echo into tomorrow. Each of us will leave a legacy after we've passed on to eternity. Memories of your life and your character, for good or for ill, will linger in the lives of your family and friends, making each choice, each word, each moment an essential one. So, what legacy will you leave when today's present becomes tomorrow's past?



Discovering the Way

1. When Looking Back, Six Things Really Matter

Let's review the six principles that really matter: biblical principles are more important than traditional opinions, personal relationships are more valuable than individual accomplishments, domestic priorities rate higher than church programs, positive reinforcement is better than negative reactions, unconditional forgiveness is much preferred to lingering probation, and mutual respect is of greater concern than chain of command.

2. When Looking Ahead, Three Things Last (Genesis 1:26–27; 2:18, 24–25)

At least three things will last into the future: the institutions of marriage and family—stay strong, God's plan and requirements for domestic harmony—stay discerning, and the effects of your influence—stay faithful.

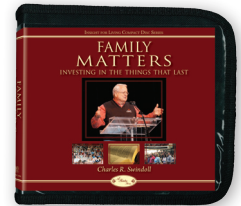


Starting Your Journey

Looking within, we must answer two questions. First, "Are you investing in things that will last?" Second, "Do those investments include a few people God calls 'special'?"



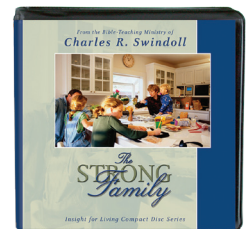
Tools for Digging Deeper



**Family Matters:
Investing in the
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