

SERMON OUTLINE 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Orphan Care Is for the Church

GOD AND ORPHANS

Truths

Feelings

Actions

CHRISTIANS AND ORPHANS

Truths

Feelings

Actions

THE CHURCH AND ORPHANS

Orphan Care Is for the Church

Each Person in the Church Plays a Critical Role in Orphan Care

The Church Cares Well or Poorly for Orphans Together

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this sermon is that God cares for orphans, God calls Christians to care for orphans, and Christians care best for orphans within the Church. Let's pray that all three would be clear and compelling.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you been a part of Orphan Sunday before? What was your experience? Is there anything you hope to get out of this one?
3. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you consider "orphan care"?
4. Had you ever considered the fact that all morality is rooted in God's unchanging nature? What are the implications of this?
5. In light of 4, can you see how God being Father to the fatherless has significant orphan-care implications for the Church.
6. Is it natural for you to share God's feelings toward the fatherless (principally, love and compassion)?
7. Is it natural for you to feel compelled to join God in acting on behalf of the fatherless (principally, doing good, seeking justice, correcting oppression, and pleading their cause)?
8. Does the connection between physical and spiritual orphans/adoption make it easier for you to appreciate either?
9. Do you think of yourself as playing an integral role in orphan care as a part of Grace Church (even if you never adopt or foster)? Had you ever considered 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 in light of orphan care?
10. In what ways is a church (rather than an individual) better able to care for orphans?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Look up and pray over the passages in the Bible concerning orphan care.
13. Go over the applications the Orphan Sunday team put together and pick one to focus on (speak up, provide for their needs, care for them, support those who support them, talk to one of the families at Grace Church who have adopted or are fostering, protect them from harm, visit them, give sacrificially, encourage them to press on, adopt or foster, help mobilize your church).
14. Take some time to consider your role in orphan care at Grace Church. Are you primarily a prayer, giver, encourager, welcomer, provider, adopter, or something else? Whatever it is, seek to grow in that area this year.
15. Create or otherwise acquire some visual reminder to pray for orphans and those who are caring for them.
16. Commit to talking to one family at Grace who has fostered or adopted to find out how you can better support/pray for them
17. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

18. Adoration. Praise God for being Father to the fatherless. Praise God for being loving and compassionate. Praise God for being the foundation of all morality. Praise God for being unchanging. Praise God for being all-powerful.
19. Confession. Confess any indifference you've had with regard to the cause of the orphan. Confess any sins of omission you've committed in the way of orphan care. Confess any ways you've participated in injustice or oppression for the orphan.
20. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He adopted you into His family. Thank God that He empowers us to do what He requires of us. Thank God that He has given the Church to care for orphans together. Thank God that His power is all for the vulnerable.
21. Supplication. Ask God to comfort the fatherless. Ask God to make our church even stronger in orphan care. Ask God to strengthen the families of Grace who are actively working to find and provide homes for the fatherless. Ask God to keep us humble in all our efforts. Ask God to help us engage in orphan care through gospel lenses.