

God's Design For The Family

I. Themes of The "family" From Old Testament To New Testament

(From Physical Family to Spiritual Family)

- A. Idea of family is presented before family is created; God designed a world where things were created in family; "Plants after their own kind" etc. Genesis 1:11-12,21-25.
- B. God Created a family in His own image after His kind. Genesis 1:26-28
- C. From the Old Testament to the New Testament we see One Family (Adam and Eve) to One Nation (Israel) to One Church (Jews and Gentiles) To One People (The Millennial Kingdom) To One World Reality (New Heaven and New Earth).

II. Themes of The "family" From Old Testament To New Testament

(From Physical Family to Spiritual Family)

- A. Born again- As one is born into a physical family he too must be born in the spiritual family; The idea of family emphasized in the concept.
- B. Jesus came through a family and was a faithful family member thereby affirming the validity and importance of Family.
- C. Jesus made the Kingdom Family a higher priority than the physical family which is a pattern for us to follow.
- D. Must balance between teaching on earthly family and eternal family and the connection between the two.

(This section was adapted by Dr. Chris Shirley professor at Southwestern Theology Seminary Ft Worth, Texas.)

III. The Premise of the Family as God Intended

- A. The family was intended to consist of a man and a woman who are committed to one another under God.
- B. This man and woman are to live together as Husband and Wife with children who are related by birth or adoption through a mother/father relationship or by parentage of a biblical marriage to each other and managed by the Father/Husband to glorify God in all aspects of life. (Genesis 1:26-31, 2:18, 21-25, 18: 19)
- C. The family is to provide companionship, nurture, discipline, and training in righteousness so that all would be able to live a life that is pleasing to God and beneficial to society.

D. The family was intended to be the means by which God reflects the nature of His relationship with His people.

1. Husband/wives: Ephesians 5:22-23;
Revelations 19:9
2. Father/child: Deuteronomy 32:6-18;
Romans 8:12-17;
2 Corinthians 6:16-18;
John 1:12; 1 John 3:16

IV. The Priority of the Family to our Social Structure

- A. The family is the basic building block of every other social unit or institution. (Genesis 1:26-28).
- B. The family was the only entity on earth commanded to be fruitful and multiply. (Genesis 1:28)
- C. Distortions and deficiencies in our families will produce distortions and deficiencies in every other human institution; therefore, the family has a large influence on society.

V. The Picture of the Family as God Intended

- A. To be a place of companionship where a husband and wife work together to accomplish God's will living out a covenant marriage before God and others. (Genesis 2:18-25)
- B. To be a place where the husband is a servant leader to the wife and family in all aspects of the family. (Ephesians 5:22-6:4)
- C. To be a place where the wife supports her husband and family in all aspects of the family. (Proverbs 31:10-31).
- D. To be a place where children are born and valued. (Psalm 127:4-5)
- E. To be a place where the will of God is taught and lived out from generation to generation resulting in Christian character, conduct, and conversation being developed accordingly. (Deuteronomy 4:1-9, Luke 6:40-45, Titus 2:1-5).
- F. To be a place where children are taught to obey and respect God and all other authority through discipline and instruction from the Word of God. (Ephesians 6:4)
- G. To be a place where mothers and fathers are honored through the wisdom of their children. (Proverbs 10:1)
- H. To be a place where people are an asset and not a liability to each other resulting in bearing burdens and meeting needs of one another. (Psalm 128:1-6)

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- I. To be a place where people live by the commandments of God from the heart and not allow the traditions of the culture or other family members to hinder resulting in the fruit of God being produced by all. (James 3:13-18, John 15:8)