

God's Design for Family, Part 1

Introduction

This week (end of November, first of December) I received an email and spoke to two people that turned into discussions about their families. All families have problems so it is not really surprising families would have issues, but sometimes the issues are very bad. Throughout the stories my eyes kept getting bigger and bigger. Sometimes we think about family when it is falling apart and lament how this should not happen. What is the Biblical teaching about the family?

Dictionary Definition (The American Heritage Dictionary of English Language 5th Edition)

- A ***fundamental*** social group in society typically consisting of one or two parents and their children.
 - Interestingly, even secular people realize the family is fundamental

The Family is the first institution God created

- ❖ Genesis 1:27-28: God tells man and woman (created in His image) to multiply
- ❖ Genesis 2:23-25: Marriage

Family Under Attack

- ❖ Genesis 3: Sin creates conflict between husband and wife
- ❖ Genesis 4: Conflict between brothers that results in murder (First outside of garden)
- ❖ Genesis 13: Abram sends Lot away to avoid conflict
- ❖ Genesis 27: Four members of family and all have conflict with each other
- ❖ Genesis 30-31: Conflict between Jacob and Laban
- ❖ Genesis 37: Conflict between Joseph and brothers

a) Family is important to God

Family is not an after thought for God, but is part of His Creation of the world! Its origin is grounded in the Creation story! This is not simply God just coming up with an idea to populate the earth, but is significant to His plan for humanity. The family is not a human invention nor did it develop over time but a Divine idea.

b) Should not be surprised families have conflict

Everything God has created bears the scars from sin and death. Creation groans waiting for redemption (Rom 8:22). Since everything has been tainted with evil it should come as no surprise the family unit does not function as it was designed to do by God. We realize the relationships within a family are going to require work.

c) Should not be surprised satan would attack family unit

Given that satan attacks God's people and the things God has put in place it should be expected he would attack the family unit. Maybe more specifically, we should say that satan would attack your family unit hoping to create distress, friction, and problems. I find it interesting, the first attack of the forces of evil outside of the garden of Eden is an attack on the relationship between brothers.

1. Worship a Focal Point

- ❖ Exodus 12:21-28

- 12:21: Families select their lamb
- 12:26: Children ask, “What does this mean?”
- Calendar was re-done around Passover; God’s great act; Largely a family affair!
- ❖ Dt 6:7, 9
- ❖ Dt 11:19-20
- ❖ Joshua 4:20-22

Not just the raw facts about God or steps in worship, but a real, lively instruction of faith. What do these things mean! The family is a place where faith can be explained and unpacked.

Example: A young man’s father sat him and brother down to highlight what he gave back to the Lord every week. Kevin learned that you purpose in your heart not from a good sermon or because the preacher talked about it but because his father instructed him in that.