

The New Testament Church
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW TEACHINGS

02 – A Biblical View of the Family

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I In the Beginning – Genesis 1:26-28 (PowerPoint slides 1-5)

- A. God created men and women in His Image (character)
 - 1. Male and female were to take “dominion” together (responsibility for creation)
 - 2. He told them to be fruitful, replenish the earth, and subdue it
- B. God created individuals *before* groups – rights/responsibilities (truth applied to all)
 - 1. Be fruitful and multiply – LIFE
 - 2. Replenish the earth – LIBERTY
 - 3. Subdue it (steward it) – PROPERTY
- C. God created the family – Genesis 2:24 (see *Worldview*, page 45; applies to all)
 - 1. Leave – a separate entity with its own jurisdiction – importance of the family
 - 2. Cleave – beginning with marriage, “sticks like glue” – nature of the family
 - 3. One Flesh – to incarnate truth – with procreation – mission of the family
- D. ***The family is a covenantal union between God, a husband and wife, and with children is three in one, thus an image of creation and nature.*** (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

As the family goes, so goes the individual, church, culture and state

- 1. Webster’s 1828 - *The collective body of persons who live in one house... parents, children... servants... lodgers or boarders.*
- 2. Nuclear Family – *a couple and their dependent children... a social unit...*
- 3. Editorialist David Brooks recently wrote... *the nuclear family was a mistake...*
- 4. BLM stated goal was to *disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family...*

II The Family and the Home – first family, then home (area of jurisdiction) (PP slides 6-8)

- A. The *Importance* of the Family – 1st Timothy 3:5
 - 1. First governing institution (ordained by God) beyond individual self-government
 - 2. It qualifies us for wider spheres of influence – character displayed at home first
 - 3. A place to practice piety and stewardship – devotions, worship, prayer
 - 4. The first church – worship & obey God – as a couple, family
 - 5. The first state – government & economy – solving issues, foreign policy
- B. The *Nature* of the Family – 2nd Timothy 1:5
 - 1. A place of united intimacy: we learn to cleave to God and one another
 - 2. A place of generational continuity: multi-generational - must pass the torch here...
- C. The *Mission* of the Family – 2nd Timothy 3:15-17
 - 1. The first mission field – evangelism – leading your children to Christ
 - 2. The first nation to be discipled – coming alongside and admonishing when necessary

III Home, church and state (see quotes on the family by Rev. Phillips, 1860) – slides 9-12

- A. See chart on Biblical Worldview – Individual, Home, Church and State Jurisdictions
- B. Marriage is the foundation of the family, and children are its fruit
- C. Keep in mind that divorced, mixed, and singles are also families in a wider context
- D. Parents, as overseers, must guard the purity of the home, *a preparation for service*

1. The Family is *not* an idol, but it *is* a priority, responsibility before church ministry
2. Parents and grandparents need to look forward, how has God prepared you to serve?

IV Biblical Principles of Family Life – PowerPoint slides 13-19 (seed of culture)

- A. Responsibility; principle of labor (character) – Ge. 2:15 – *we love to work*
 1. Chores as responsibilities, creatively entertaining themselves...
 2. Working with parents (family business), joy of serving others
- B. Accountability; principle of stewardship – Ge. 2:15 – *we are faithful to our word*
 1. A neat and orderly room – remove what a child can't steward; eating habits/manners
 2. Punctuality and faithfulness to promises, respecting property rights of siblings, tithing
- C. Self-government; principle of liberty – Ge. 2:16 – *we are free to obey*
 1. A child serving a parent's schedule; voice obedience to gentle instruction
 2. Discipline by the rule of law - set standard, rebuke, confess, forgive, punish
- D. Growth; principle of sowing and reaping – Ge. 2:16-17 – *we reap what we sow*
 1. Discipleship (observe, assist, lead, release); where punishment is a consequences
 3. Forgiveness has meaning (consequences), not manipulated by tears, talk or tempers
- E. Power; principle of sovereignty – Ge. 2:18 – *act on what we've planned and evaluated*
 1. A Home Constitution – prevents problems, learning to think ahead and predict
 3. Analyze plans and help teens reason with parents and God – entertainment, clothes....
- F. Variety; principle of individuality – Ge. 2:19 – *We thank God for how He made us unique*
 1. Cultivate manners in consideration for others, no jokes that put people or races down
 2. Discern priorities; don't major in the minors, affirm Christ's purpose, not others
- G. Union; principle of covenant (unity) – Ge. 2:24 – *we always work for unity*
 1. The goal is to preserve unity and learn to separate from evil to avoid compromise
 2. Family councils discuss harmony, call out destiny and purpose of each child in Christ

V The family and home – the challenges ahead of us (PowerPoint slides 20-28)

- A. The American home from 1620-1920 (quotes from America's leaders)
 1. The Bible was read and discussed by parent/child
 2. Family worship done at home – the hearth
 3. Character formation was the goal – a work ethic
 4. Faithfulness to your family name, self-employed
 5. Civil laws against fornication, adultery, and divorce
 6. Equality of rights for women increased over time due to Biblical truth
 7. Family the foundation for the church and state – seed of liberty
- B. The family today
 1. Less marriages (1970 – 67%; 2021 – 37%); child poverty 10-fold rise
 2. Most marriages now end in divorce – 50%+ (higher with fewer marriages)
 3. Single parent and/or dysfunctional families; dropout doubles w/fatherlessness, broken homes 70% of long-term inmates, fatherlessness doubles incarceration
 4. Broken homes are often govt. dependent, govt. aid often 70 times higher
- C. Strengthening the family (illustrate Hungary's example – national policy)
 1. Individuals; *renew our minds from the truths of Scripture about the family*
 2. Churches – *focus on family (broken homes, singles, divorced, widowed, fatherlessness) in activities with fathers, mothers, joining the generations*
 3. Community – *learn to serve in neighborhood, village, town and state*

4. Support *candidates and policies that can demonstrate incremental improvements*