

A Biblical View of the Family



In the Beginning...

“And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion...

“So God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it.” - Genesis 1:26a; 27-28

Rights and Responsibilities given to Individuals

1. Bear God's image in the earth
2. Responsible to administer God-given rights

...be fruitful and multiply - LIFE

...replenish the earth - LIBERTY

...subdue it – PROPERTY

The Scripture applies to all individuals and areas of life

The Creation of the Family

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh.” – Genesis 2:24

Leave – Importance of the Home

Cleave – Nature of the Home

One Flesh – Mission of the Home

The family is a covenantal union between God, husband and wife, and with children, is three in one, thus an image of creation and nature.

Defining the Family

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

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

The Importance of the Family

First a family, and then a home

“For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the house of God?” – 1st Timothy 3:5

1. First Governing Institution
2. Qualifies us for wider spheres of Influence
3. Place to practice piety and stewardship
4. The first church – worship & obey God
5. The first state – govt., economy, foreign policy

The Nature of the Home

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice, and I am persuaded in thee also.”

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:

- natural multi-generational institution

- must pass the torch here....

The Mission of the Home

“...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” – 2nd

Timothy 3:15-17

1. The first mission field - evangelism
2. The first nation to be discipled

God's Divine Institutions

GOD



INDIVIDUAL receives God-given
rights and responsibilities



THE CHURCH

THE HOME

THE STATE

Foundation – Members

Foundation – Marriage

Foundation – Law

Fruit – Disciples

Fruit – Child Training

Fruit – Justice

Discipline –
Excommunication

Discipline – Corporeal
Punishment

Discipline – Capital
Punishment

*Voluntary Association of
Churches to impact the
culture*

*Voluntary Association of
Families to produce
businesses*

*Voluntary Association of
Nations to defend the law
of nations*

The Power of Parental Example

“Example is teaching by action... Such is its influence that you can estimate the parent by the child. Show me a child, polite, courteous, refined, moral and honorable in all his sentiments and conduct; and I will point you to a well-conducted nursery, to noble and high-minded parents, faithful to their offspring... Thus the child is a living commentary upon its home and its parents... The child is the moral reproduction of the parent.”

The Christian Home, by Rev. S. Phillips, 1860

Law and Government at Home

“Home is a little commonwealth jointly governed by the parents. It involves law. The mutual relation of parents and child implies authority on the one hand, and obedience on the other.... Home is the first form of society... It is similar in its fundamentals to the government of the state and church. It involves the legislative, judicial and executive functions; its elements are law, authority, obedience and penalties. The basis of its laws is the Word of God.”

The Christian Home, by Rev. S. Phillips, 1860

Home Education

“It (the home) is the first school....

What is home education? It is the physical, mental, moral and religious development of the child. To educate means to draw out as well as to instill in... The home training does not, therefore, consist of simple information, but is a nurture of body, mind and spirit... Home education (is) causing the body to move right, the heart to feel right, the mind to think right and the soul to love right; changing your children from creatures of mere impulse, prejudice and passion, to thinking, loving and reasoning beings.”

The Christian Home, by Rev. S. Phillips, 1860

Keep in mind...

- Divorced, mixed, singles, are also families in the wider context of applying the truths of Scripture to each one – unique purposes
- Parents (and individuals) must guard the purity of their homes (or hearts)
 - The family is *not* to be idolized – not the end all
 - It *is* a priority – *before* vocation, church

Parents and grandparents need to look forward, in spite of the past – *how can children be prepared for service?*

Biblical Responsibility; *Principle of Labor (Character)*

“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it.....” – Genesis 2:15

We love to work

“Applying directed pressure to form habits of productivity”

1. Chores as responsibilities in the home
2. Creatively entertaining themselves
3. Working with parents (family business)
4. Joy of serving others

Biblical Accountability; *Principle of Management (Stewardship)*

“...and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.....” – Genesis 2:15

We are faithful to our word

“Holding children accountable to care for what they are given”

1. A neat and orderly room – remove what a child can't steward
2. Eating habits for health and manners
3. Punctuality and faithfulness to our word (promises)
4. Respecting property rights – tithes and offerings

Biblical Self-Control; *Principle of Liberty (Self-Government)*

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat... - Genesis 2:16

We are free to obey

“Standards maintained consistently to build internal control for greater liberty – increase internal, decrease external”

1. A young child serving the parent’s schedule
2. Instant voice obedience on the first command
3. Discipline *what* was done, no room for excuses
4. Rule of law - set standard, rebuke, confess, forgive, punish

Biblical Independence; *Principle of Growth (Consequences)*

“...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for... thou shalt surely die...” - Genesis 2:16-17

We reap what we sow

“Training children to think ahead to the consequences of their attitudes and actions; allowing them to reap what they sow”

1. Discipleship (observe, assist, lead, release) in every area
2. Punishment sets the context for forgiveness
3. Guarding contentment with priorities
4. Parents not manipulated by tears, talk or tempers

Biblical Reasoning;

Principle of Power (Sovereignty)

*“And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make a helpmeet for him” - Genesis 2:18*

We act on what we’ve planned and evaluated

“Training our children to plan and judge before acting”

1. A Home Constitution – preventing problems with agreements
2. Learning to think ahead and predict *before* acting on an idea
3. Analyze plans and ideas by reasoning from the Word of God
4. Help your Teenager to reason with you and God by spending time together – discernment (internet, friends, time)

Biblical Variety; *Principle of Distinction (Individuality)*

“...and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.” - Genesis 2:19

We thank God for how He made us unique

“Learning how to appreciate differences and yet maintain
unity”

1. Cultivate manners out of consideration for others
2. Never allow jokes that put down people or nationalities
3. Live out priorities and gender identity in dress, mannerisms
4. Look to Christ to understand one's purpose, not others

Biblical Union; *Principle of Unity (Covenant)*

“therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.” - Genesis 2:24

We always work for unity

“Learning how to cultivate unity to accomplish a goal with the compromise of one’s convictions”

1. The goal is to preserve unity, not seek a reason to divide
2. Learn to separate and flee from evil to avoid compromise
3. Family councils to discuss harmony of purpose and vision
4. Call for the destiny and purpose of each child in Christ

The American Home

1620 – 1920 – *“heart of church and state”*

- The Bible was read and discussed by parent/child
- Family worship done at home – the hearth
- Character formation was the goal – a work ethic
- Faithfulness to your family name, self-employed
- Civil laws against fornication, adultery, and divorce
 - Public opinion more severe than laws
 - Average age for marrying was 20, high morality...
 - Equality of rights for women increased over time
- Family the foundation for the church and state

John Adams on the Family - 1778

The foundations of national morality must be laid in private families. In vain are Schools, Academies and universities instituted, if loose principles and licentious habits are impressed upon children in their earliest years.... How is it possible that Children can have any just Sense of the sacred Obligations of Morality or Religion, if, from their earliest Infancy, they learn that their mothers live in habitual Infidelity to their fathers, and their fathers in as constant Infidelity to their Mothers.

James Wilson on the Family

- Marriage/Family *“the true origin of society”*
- *“It is the duty of parents to maintain their children decently, and according to their circumstances; to protect them according to the dictates of prudence; and to educate them according to the suggestions of a judicious and zealous regard for their usefulness, their respectability, and their happiness.”*

Mothers – by Lydia Sigourney, 1851



Lydia Sigourney
1791-1865

For the strength of a nation, especially of a republican nation, is in the intelligent and well-ordered homes of the people. And in proportion as the discipline of families is relaxed, will the happy organization of communities be affected, and national character become vagrant, turbulent, or ripe for revolution.

Scott Yenor – Heritage Foundation - 2013

The Founders defended the family as one of the chief educational institutions fostering genuine self-government, emphasizing self-control instead of the later Progressive or Deweyan emphasis on ‘social control.’

If the Founders are correct, America’s experiment in self-government depends on revivifying the strength of marriage and the family.

The State of the Home Today

- Less marriages; child poverty 10-fold rise
- Most marriages now end in divorce – 50%+
- Single parent and/or dysfunctional families
 - Educational dropout doubles w/fatherlessness
 - Broken homes – 70% of long-term inmates
 - Fatherlessness doubles incarceration
- Broken homes are often Govt. dependent
 - Govt. aid 7 to 10 fold higher in broken homes
 - Cycles of dependency and govt. centralization

Strengthening the Family

- Individuals – renew our minds from the truths of Scripture about the family
- Churches – focus on family (broken homes, singles, divorced, widowed, fatherless) in activities, fathers, mothers, joining generations with youth
- Community – learn to serve in your neighborhood, village, town and state
- Support candidates and policies that can demonstrate incremental improvement

The Example of Hungary

- Between 1977 and 2011, the nation's population growth dropped from 2.17 to 1.23!
- Due to influence of believers and the Church the following policies are being implemented
 - Receive tax discounts after 24 months marriage
 - The more children, the greater the family benefit and tax breaks
 - Maternity benefits, childcare, reduced ed. costs, support for parents and grandparents
 - Today Hungary's population has risen 26%!