

6th April, 2008.

THE PURPOSE OF GOD FOR CREATING THE FAMILY STRUCTURE.

Introduction:

The month of April is our family month and by the grace of God, we shall be handling issues around the family this month. In this introductory message, we are considering what I will describe as the fundamentals to understanding the counsel of God concerning our marriage and family.

The Challenges of Marriage: We will consider two texts here:

1. Mat. 19: 3- 12.
2. 1 Cor. 7: 1-9.

The above passages show that going into marriage is something that must be well thought about, well planned for and well prayed for. It might sound difficult; but according to the word of the Lord, it is possible. It is sweet, it is achievable!

Let us see some of the things that make marriage wonderful:

- (a). Gen. 2: 18 – 25 – Marriage was God’s idea for men.
- (b). Prov. 18:22 – Whoso finds a wife finds a good thing and obtain favour of the Lord.
- (c) Prov. 31: 10 – 31 – The Portrait of the virtuous wife
- (d) Eph. 5: 22-33 – It symbolizes the relationship between Christ and the church.
- (e) Heb. 13: 4 – It is marriage that sanctifies the matrimonial bed. Hence, the bed that did not get that blessing is cursed and dishonourable.
- (f) There is power in marriage – Eccl. 4: 9-12.
- (g) Malachi 2: 15 – God institutionalized the family structure so that we can bring up godly seeds. Compare with Gen. 6: 4-5.

- (h) John 2: 1- 11 - It was at the wedding of Cana of Galilee that the Lord performed his first miracle.
- (i) Gen. 1: 22 (be fruitful and multiply) – Marriage provides the avenue for the counsel of God for creation to be attained.
- (j) Marriage provides the society the opportunity for socialization, balanced development and psychological safety. It is the safety net for every human being in the society.

The Excerpt below will surely bless you.

By Patrick Tolani.

Excerpt from: God's Purpose for the Family,

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“In looking at the Scriptures as a whole it becomes very obvious that one of God's primary reasons in creating the home and family relationships is **to be a picture of our spiritual relationship with Him**. The other side of this truth is that **our relationship with God is to be a pattern for the relationships within the home**.

A brief look at Scripture will illustrate these points.

The Husband-Wife Relationship

Isaiah 54:5 tells us, "For your Maker is your husband - the Lord Almighty is His name." Here we see the Lord called our "husband". From that word we are to look at good husband-wife relationships to learn in some small way what God is to us. He is pictured as a loving, protective and caring husband to us, and we are His bride.

On the other hand, Eph. 5:23-24 points to our relationship with Christ as the model for what an earthly husband should be in the marriage relationship. It strongly exhorts the husband in his marital responsibilities when it says, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

In the previous verses, wives are also shown the heavenly example when they are told in Ephesians 5:22, "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church."

The Parent-Child Relationship

Isaiah 63:16 speaks of the spiritual parent-child relationship when it states, "You, O Lord, are our Father." Deuteronomy 14:1 gives us the opposite side of that relationship when Moses reminds the people of Israel by saying, "You are the children of the Lord." This idea is carried out in numerous places in the Scripture, perhaps most easily remembered in the opening words of the Lord's Prayer which begins, "Our Father, which art in Heaven."

Writers of Scripture draw on a godly human parent-child relationship to illustrate the kind of Heavenly Father that we have. The Psalmist, in Ps. 103:13, warms our hearts with the reminder that "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers we are dust."

To present the other side, the writer of Hebrews uses the workings of the human parent-child relationship to remind us of our need for God's loving correction. He says, "Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good that we may share in his holiness."

The Sibling Relationship

The closeness of the sibling relationship is pictured in Proverbs 17:17 when we are told that "a brother is born for adversity." Matthew Henry explains this as meaning, "Relations must in a special manner be careful and tender of one another in affliction. A brother is born to succour a brother or sister in distress, to whom he is joined so closely by nature that he may be the more strongly inclined and engaged, as it were by instinct, to help them."

Peter draws upon the closeness that should be shown in the human brother relationship in order to compare it to the relationship of fellow believers. In I Peter 2:17 we are exhorted to "love the brotherhood of believers." Jesus Himself in Mark 3:35 says, "Whoever obeys God's will is my brother and sister."

From these few comparisons we can see that **the earthly relationships within the family have been created to be an illustration** (though a limited one) **of our spiritual relationships with God and with fellow believers.** We also see that **the spiritual relationships that we have with God and fellow believers are the ultimate model for how we must conduct our human relationships within the home.**

A very serious responsibility has been placed upon us to make every effort to see that the way we live in our home depicts to the members of our family and to those who observe us something of the character of God and our relationship with God. It also means that we are responsible to seek to understand and then, with God's help, to try to model our family relationships after the example of how God relates to us.

A wise man once said, "A truly Christian home should be a little bit of heaven upon earth. It should be the ground floor of heaven so that departure from this life is just going upstairs."

