

Family Matters

4: The Blessed and Blessing Home

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1. The Permanence of Marriage
2. The Husband's Role in Marriage
3. The Wife's Role in Marriage
- 4. The Blessed and Blessing Home**
5. The God-Centered Home
6. The Parent-Led Home
7. The Child-Raising Home
8. The Overflowing Home

What is a Family?

James Holstein and Jaber Gubrium illustrate an inclusive definition of the family by utilizing a phenomenological and ethnomethodological theoretical perspective in an attempt to understand how individuals experience reality. ***Family, based on this perspective, is each individual's interpretation of who their kin are.***

Barbara Rothberg and Dan Weinstein illustrate an inclusive definition that can encompass all local subcultures by stating that: **"the constellation of family is limited only by the limits of the participants' creativity"**

[DOF]

Each Individual's Interpretation...

- No-Fault Divorce
- Step Families
- Single Parenthood
- Welfare state as Father
- Promiscuity
- State-raised Children
- Abortion
- Living Together
- Open Marriages
- Slave Marriage
- Feminist Marriage
- Polygamy
- Same-sex Marriage

What is a Family?

4 And [Jesus] answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,' 5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH' ? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." - Matthew 19:4-6 NKJV

What is a Family?

- Man: Whatever each individual decides
- God: One man, one woman, for life
- **Who is right? God or Man?**

The Blessing of Family

God intends for marriage and family to be a blessing for every member of the home, and for the world in which the family lives.

The Blessing of Marriage

- God intends marriage to be a blessing
 - Proverbs 18:22
 - Proverbs 19:14
 - Psalms 128:1-6

Proverbs 18:22 NKJV

He who finds a wife finds a good thing,
And obtains favor from the LORD.

Proverbs 19:14 NKJV

Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers,
But a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Psalms 128:1-6 NKJV

1 Blessed is every one who fears the LORD,
Who walks in His ways.

1. When you eat the labor of your hands,
You shall be happy, and it shall be well with
you.

2. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
In the very heart of your house,
Your children like olive plants
All around your table.

3. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
Who fears the LORD.

The Blessing of Marriage

- God intends marriage to be a blessing
- Man considers marriage to be a curse

Marriage a Curse?

- Marriage is a “comfortable concentration camp.”
- Marriage is “a slavery-like practice” and “we can’t destroy the inequities between men and women until we destroy marriage.”

Marriage a Curse?

- Many wives are in “a dependency relationship” which is akin to “slavery and the Indian reservation system.”
- “All legislation based on the breadwinning-husband, dependent-homemaking-wife pattern” must be eliminated “to reflect the equality principle” because “a scheme built upon the breadwinning husband [and] dependent homemaking wife concept inevitably treats the woman’s efforts or aspirations in the economic sector as less important than the man’s.”

The Blessing of Marriage

- God intends marriage to be a blessing
- Man considers marriage to be a curse
- **Who is right? God or Man?**

The Blessing of Children

- God intends children to be a blessing
 - Gen. 1:26-28
 - Ps. 127:3-5

Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**"

Psalms 127:3-5 NKJV

1. Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.
2. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.
3. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them;
They shall not be ashamed,
But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

The Blessing of Children

- God intends children to be a blessing
- Man views children as a curse

Children a Curse?

Internet comments on an August 2007 Today Show report on the Duggar family who had just had their 17th child:

- “Any more than two children is too many, and 17 is just obscene. The world's population has doubled since 1960. Even if you can support 17 kids, you're producing more people who will consume more natural resources and contribute to global warming. Shame on the Today show for glorifying this irresponsible couple's out-of-control breeding!”
- “are they crazy?!!!!!! I would really look into getting one or both parents FIXED. do they have insurance? don't you think the company would stop paying for all these births and well-baby visits.”

Children a Curse?

Jonathon Porritt, who chairs the [British] government's Sustainable Development Commission, said in February 2009:

Curbing population growth through contraception and abortion must be at the heart of policies to fight global warming.

“I am unapologetic about asking people to connect up their own responsibility for their total environmental footprint and how they decide to procreate and how many children they think are appropriate.”

“I think we will work our way towards a position that says that having more than two children is irresponsible.”

Children a Curse?

Paul Erlich's book, The Population Bomb, written in the 1970's suggested:

- "A federal Department of Population and Environment (DPE) should be set up with the power to take ***whatever steps are necessary*** to establish a reasonable population size in the United States and to put an end to the steady deterioration of our environment."
- The optimum population of the earth is 2 Billion
- But the current population is over 6 billion!!

Children a Curse?

Dr. Alan Guttmacher, as president of Planned Parenthood, promoted the use of all voluntary means to hold down on the world birthrate. But he anticipated the possibility that eventually coercion may become necessary, particularly in areas where the pressure is greatest, possibly India and China. "Each country," he said, "will have to decide its own form of coercion, and determine when and how it should be employed. At present, the means are compulsory sterilization and compulsory abortion. Perhaps some day a way of enforcing compulsory birth control will be feasible."

Humanity a Curse?

William Vogt, a biologist, wrote in the 1960's:

- Charitable organizations "should not ship food to keep alive ten million Indians and Chinese this year, so that fifty million may die five years hence".
- "Large scale bacterial warfare would be an effective, if drastic, means of bringing back the earth's forests and grasslands."

Humanity a Curse?

Dave Foreman, the head of "Earth First!", thinks so:

"The human race could go extinct, and I, for one, would not shed any tears."

The Blessing of Children

- God intends children to be a blessing
- Man views children as a curse
- **Who is right? God or Man?**

Agreeing with God

"The legalization of abortion on demand is not in accordance with the values which our civilization places on human life. Wanted or unwanted, I believe that human life, even at its earliest stages, has certain rights that must be recognized - the right to be born, the right to love, the right to grow old."

Agreeing with God

"What happens to the mind of a person and the moral fabric of a nation, that accepts the aborting of the life of a baby without a pang of conscience? What kind of persons, and what kind of society will we have 20 years hence if life can be taken so casually? It is that question, the question of our attitude, our value system, and our mind-set with regard to the nature and worth of life itself that is the central question confronting mankind. Failure to answer that question affirmatively may leave us with a hell right here on earth."

Marriage and Family is a Blessing

- For married men and women
 - “Married people live longer, are healthier, have fewer heart attacks and other diseases, have fewer problems with alcohol, behave in less risky ways, have more sex -- and more satisfying sex -- and become much more wealthy than single people.”
 - A single or divorced woman is 50% more likely to die from any cause than a married woman. A single or divorced man is 250% more likely to die from any cause than a married man.

Marriage and Family is a Blessing

- For Married Women

- Single and divorced women are four to five times more likely to be victims of crime than married women.
- They are ten times more likely than wives to be victims of rape than married women.
- They are three times more likely to be victims of aggravated assault than married women.

Marriage and Family is a Blessing

- For Children

- Children from single-parent or broken homes:
 - Are 3-6 times more likely to suffer abuse
 - More than twice as likely to have serious emotional problems
 - Twice as likely to drop out of high-school
- Compared to children living in an intact home

Marriage and Family is a Blessing

- For the World
 - Gen. 12:1-3
 - Matt 5:13-16

Genesis 12:1-3 NKJV

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; **I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.** 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; **And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 **"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.****

The Curse of an Ungodly Home

- Having a home and family does not guarantee God's blessings

The Curse of an Ungodly Home

- Having a home and family does not guarantee God's blessings
- Marriage can be miserable
 - Proverbs 12:4
 - Proverbs 19:13
 - Proverbs 27:15

Proverbs 12:4 NKJV

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband,
But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.

Proverbs 19:13 NKJV

A foolish son is the ruin of his father,
And the contentions of a wife are a continual
dripping.

Proverbs 27:15 NKJV

A continual dripping on a very rainy day
And a contentious woman are alike;

The Curse of an Ungodly Home

- Having a home and family does not guarantee God's blessings
- Marriage can be miserable
 - Proverbs 12:4
 - Proverbs 19:13
 - Proverbs 27:15
- Being single would be better
 - Proverbs 21:9,19

Proverbs 21:9 NKJV

Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop,
Than in a house shared with a contentious
woman.

Proverbs 21:19 NKJV

Better to dwell in the wilderness,
Than with a contentious and angry woman.

The Curse of an Ungodly Home

- Having a home and family does not guarantee God's blessings
- Marriage can be miserable
 - Proverbs 12:4
 - Proverbs 19:13
 - Proverbs 27:15
- Being alone would be better
 - Proverbs 21:9,19
- The problem? Psalm 127:1

Psalms 127:1 NKJV

Unless the LORD builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;

What is a Family?

- A blessing if it is ordered according to God's will!
- A curse if it is not!

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God's way is the
best way!