

## Family Matters 4: The Blessed and Blessing Home

### I. Introduction

#### a. What is a Family?

- i. # The world's answer: "James Holstein and Jaber Gubrium (1995) 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 participants' creativity" (1966, p. 57).
- ii. We used to know, because God told us
- iii. Now we no longer accept God's word for what a family is
- iv. So we don't really know how to answer this question
- v. So our society has been trying to come up with all kinds of answers
- vi. As a result, we are discovering that God was right, as demonstrated by the wrecked lives of tens of millions of men, women and children and the tragic deaths of millions more

#### b. # Man's improvements

- i. No-Fault Divorce
- ii. Step Families
- iii. Single Parenthood
- iv. Welfare state as Father
- v. Promiscuity
- vi. Abortion
- vii. Living Together
- viii. Open Marriages
- ix. Slave Marriage
- x. Feminist Marriage
- xi. Polygamy
- xii. Same-sex Marriage

#### c. # God's definition: Matt. 19:4-6

- i. One Man
- ii. One Woman
- iii. For Life

#### d. # Who is right? God or Man?

II. # KEY STATEMENT: 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.

### III. The blessing of Marriage

#### a. # From God –

- i. # Proverbs 18:22
- ii. # Proverbs 19:14
- iii. # Psalms 128:1-6

- b. # Contrast to current society
  - i. # Betty Friedan famously labeled marriage a “comfortable concentration camp.”
  - ii. Monogamy, marriage, child-rearing and the nuclear family were all patriarchal traps to contain and oppress women.
  - iii. Society’s expectation that a mother should care for her own children was cited as oppression of women by our male-dominated patriarchal society from which women must be liberated so that they can achieve fulfillment in workforce careers just like men.
  - iv. Robin Morgan, one of the founders of Ms. Magazine, said that marriage is “a slavery-like practice” and that “we can’t destroy the inequities between men and women until we destroy marriage.”
  - v. # Articulating vintage feminism in the 1974 Harvard Educational Review, Hillary Clinton wrote disparagingly about wives who are in “a dependency relationship” which, she said, is akin to “slavery and the Indian reservation system.”
  - vi. Then-ACLU attorney Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote in her 1977 book Sex Bias in the U.S. Code that “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.”
- c. # Who is right? God or Man?

#### IV. # The blessing of Children

- a. From God
  - i. In putting immortal souls into homes, totally dependent on fallible human beings, God is taking an enormous risk
    - 1. What if we mess it up?
    - 2. Example: Pliny’s story of the engineer and the obelisk
    - 3. This is why we are examining how to have a home blessed by God
  - ii. # Gen. 1:26-28
  - iii. # Ps. 127:3-5
  - iv. Is this how we view them?
- b. # Contrast to current society
  - i. # Internet comments on an August 2007 Today Show report on the Duggar family who had just had their 17<sup>th</sup> child.
    - 1. 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!

2. 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.
- ii. In Great Britain
    1. # Jonathon Porritt, who chairs the [British] government's Sustainable Development Commission, says curbing population growth through contraception and abortion must be at the heart of policies to fight global warming. He says political leaders and green campaigners should stop dodging the issue of environmental harm caused by an expanding population.
    2. "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," Porritt said.
    3. "I think we will work our way towards a position that says that having more than two children is irresponsible.
    4. Times of London report from February 2009
  - iii. # Paul Erlich's book *The Population Bomb*, written in the 1970's suggested:
    1. "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."
    2. The optimum population of the earth is 2 Billion
    3. But the current population is over 6 billion!!
  - iv. # Dr. Alan Guttmacher, president of Planned parenthood-World Population, promotes the use of all voluntary means to hold down on the world birthrate. But he foresees the possibility that eventual coercion may become necessary, particularly in areas where the pressure is greatest, possibly India and China. "Each country," he says, "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."
  - v. # William Vogt argues that 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". He supposed that "large scale bacterial warfare would be an effective, if drastic, means of bringing back the earth's forests and grasslands."
  - vi. # Dave Foreman, the head of Earth First! - "The human race could go extinct, and I, for one, would not shed any tears."
- c. # Who is right? God or Man?
    - i. God is right

- ii. Man is only right if He submits to God's will
- iii. How long has it been since someone proclaimed in the public square these truths?
  - 1. # "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." So wrote Senator Edward Kennedy in the early 1970s. Unfortunately he later became a strong supporter of abortion on demand.
  - 2. # "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." So preached the Rev. Jesse Jackson in January 1977. Twenty years later, Jesse Jackson supports abortion.

#### V. The blessing of a Godly Home

- a. # For Men and Women
  - i. "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." – The Case for Marriage
  - ii. 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.
- b. # For Women
  - i. When all crimes are considered, single and divorced women are four to five times more likely to be victims than married women.
  - ii. They are ten times more likely than wives to be victims of rape and three times more likely to be victims of aggravated assault than married women.
- c. # For Children
  - i. The physical and sexual abuse of children is much higher in cohabiting families and stepfamilies.
  - ii. Boyfriends and stepfathers are far more likely to abuse the children of their girlfriends or wives than married husbands and biologically related fathers are likely to abuse their own children.
  - iii. Children from single-parent or broken homes:
    - 1. Are 3-6 times more likely to suffer abuse

- 2. More than twice as likely to have serious emotional problems
  - 3. Twice as likely to drop out of high-school
  - d. # To the world
    - i. # Gen. 12:1-3 – Abraham’s example
    - ii. # Matt 5:13-16 – Shine our lights
- VI. # The curse of a Godless Home
- a. The blessings of marriage are not a guarantee
  - b. It is the Godly home that is blessed, not anything that calls itself a home or family
  - c. We can define family any way we want, but calling it family does not bring about the blessings of God
  - d. Character matters
    - i. # Proverbs 12:4
    - ii. # Proverbs 19:13
    - iii. # Proverbs 27:15
  - e. # In circumstances like these, being alone is better than being married
    - i. # Proverbs 21:9
    - ii. # Proverbs 21:19
  - f. # The problem: Building a home on some other foundation than God’s will
    - i. # Psalm 127:1
- VII. Conclusion
- a. # What is a family? It is a blessing from God if it is ordered according to His will
  - b. It is a curse if it is not
  - c. God’s way is the best way!

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."

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 127:1-5 NKJV A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The

watchman stays awake in vain. 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep. 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 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.

Psalms 128:1-6 NKJV A Song of Ascents. Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. 2 When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD. 5 The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life. 6 Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

Genesis 18:17-19 NKJV And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, 18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

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."

Isaiah 56:3-5 NKJV Do not let the son of the foreigner Who has joined himself to the LORD Speak, saying, "The LORD has utterly separated me from His people"; Nor let the eunuch say, "Here I am, a dry tree." 4 For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant, 5 Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.

Mark 10:29-30 NKJV So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time -- houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions -- and in the age to come, eternal life.

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.

Simone de Beauvoir believed “that womanhood is a social construct” that the differences between the sexes are “not nature’s design, but a result of social forces”

She promoted easy divorce as a primary goal of the feminist liberation movement.

Betty Friedan famously labeled marriage a “comfortable concentration camp.”

Monogamy, marriage, child-rearing and the nuclear family were all patriarchal traps to contain and oppress women.

Society’s expectation that a mother should care for her own children was cited as oppression of women by our male-dominated patriarchal society from which women must be liberated so that they can achieve fulfillment in workforce careers just like men.

Feminism

By Neeru Tandon

Articulating vintage feminism in the 1974 Harvard Educational Review, Hillary Clinton wrote disparagingly about wives who are in “a dependency relationship” which, she said, is akin to “slavery and the Indian reservation system.”

Then-ACLU attorney Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote in her 1977 book *Sex Bias in the U.S. Code* that “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.”

Robin Morgan, one of the founders of *Ms. Magazine*, said that marriage is “a slavery-like practice” and that “we can’t destroy the inequities between men and women until we destroy marriage.”

Double Standards about Child Care , by Phyllis Schlafly, FEBRUARY 2006

Guttmacher [President of Planned Parenthood in the late 1960’s] thought that as long as the birth rate continued to fall or remained at a low level, Planned Parenthood should certainly be introduced before family size by coercion is attempted."

Reaching this goal, he thought, would best be accomplished by having groups other than the PPFA preach the doctrine of a normative 2.1-child family, as doing this would offend Planned Parenthood's minority clients. He suggested that family size would decrease if abortion were liberalized nationwide and received government support. In this prediction he was right on target.

But Guttmacher did not completely reject forced population control: *Predicting 20 critical years ahead in the struggle to control the population explosion, Dr. Alan Guttmacher, president of Planned Parenthood World Population, continues to urge the use of all voluntary means to hold down on the world birthrate. But he foresees the possibility that eventual coercion may become necessary, particularly in areas where the pressure is greatest, possibly India and China. "Each country," he says, "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.*

Coerced abortion is already practiced in China, with the International Planned Parenthood Federation's approval.

from The Truth about Margaret Sanger, <http://www.blackgenocide.org/sanger03.html>

According to Limits, the "most essential" step we can take toward sustainability is to slow and eventually stop exponential growth of population and physical capital.

The optimum population of the earth is 2 Billion, according to Paul Erlich, the author of "The Population Bomb".

"The human race could go extinct," declares Dave Foreman, the head of Earth First!, "and I, for one, would not shed any tears."

Hitler's *Mein Kampf* registered a stern, indeed "cosmic" view "that this planet once moved through the ether for millions of years without human beings, and it can do so again someday if men forget that they owe their higher existence, not to the ideas of a few crazy ideologists, but to the knowledge and ruthless application of Nature's stern and rigid laws."

Heinrich Himmler, who deployed the entire machinery of the SS in a vast operation to systematically kill millions of people, held this view with a vengeance. "Man," he told his SS leaders in Berlin in June 1942, at the height of the Nazis' extermination operations, "is nothing special." Ironically, his icy rejection of humanism found its fervent counterpart in his passionate love of animal life. Thus Himmler complained to a hunter, one Felix Kersten, "How can you find pleasure, Herr Kersten, in shooting from behind cover at poor creatures browsing on the edge of a wood, innocent, defenseless, and unsuspecting? It's really pure murder. Nature is so marvelously beautiful and every animal has a right to live." Such a passion for animal "rights" is often the flip side of the misanthropic coin. Indeed, hatred of humanity has often reinforced adulation of animals, just as hatred of civilization has often reinforced hypersentimental "naturalism."

William Vogt' argues that 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". He

supposed that "large scale bacterial warfare would be an effective, if drastic, means of bringing back the earth's forests and grasslands."

Paul Erlich's Population Bomb, 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."

From Ebenezer Scrooge at Christmas 1998, by Lawrence Hogan  
<http://soli.inav.net/~jfisher/dec98/lawrencehogan.html>

"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." So wrote Senator Edward Kennedy in the early 1970s.

"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." So preached the Rev. Jesse Jackson in January 1977.

Internet comments on an August 2007 Today Show report on the Duggar family who had just had their 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

Two children should be limit, says green guru From The Sunday Times  
February 1, 2009  
Sarah-Kate Templeton, Health Editor

COUPLES who have more than two children are being "irresponsible" by creating an unbearable burden on the environment, the government's green adviser has warned.

Jonathon Porritt, who chairs the government's Sustainable Development Commission, says curbing population growth through contraception and abortion must be at the heart of policies to fight global warming. He says political leaders and green campaigners should stop dodging the issue of environmental harm caused by an expanding population.

"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," Porritt said.

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

#### From Definition of Family - Inclusive Definitions

James Holstein and Jaber Gubrium (1995) 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. The basic argument is that meanings and interpretations have no connection to rules, norms, or culture. Thus, the definition of family is based on the individual's local subculture and is his or her own reality. For example, 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 participants' creativity" (1966, p. 57).

<http://family.jrank.org/pages/487/Family-Definition-Inclusive-Definitions.html>>Definition of Family - Inclusive Definitions</a>