

## **What Is A Family? The Family As God Intended It**

I. Intro: Everywhere I go, people are concerned about the family. Everyone wants a good, loving, caring, close family. Everyone dreams of an intimate, enduring, marriage. A universal felt need. Family life is changing and everyone is concerned. (High divorce rates/Abuse/Pain/Heartbreak Fatherless children) Korea-50%-2004

II. The Model of the Godhead (Wilma-1988 “We Want to Restore Family Life)

A. What is the Goal?

1. What was God’s original intention and purpose? We need to discover God’s blueprint. His original design.
2. Where did you get your view of marriage and family? We see the family through the eyes of our own family and culture. We need to evaluate our traditions by the Bible and by the model of the Trinity.
3. Not the “Good old days”, Jewish, Eastern, Western, Asian, African.

B. Attributes-The Character of God (DTS Focus)

1. To Answer the question: What is a family? We have to first answer the question: What is the nature and character of the God who created the family?
2. Faithful, righteous, covenant keeping, trustworthy, compassionate, gentle, just, patient, kind, loving, everlasting, pure, holy, humble, merciful.
3. Unity Jn 17:11 One as we are, 10:30 I and the Father are one (Diversity, oneness. equality) A relationship model in the Trinity.
4. Respect/honor Mt 3:17 Beloved son-well pleased.  
Jn 17:1 ...Son may glorify you.
5. Covenant love (Trinity Love)  
I Jn 4:16 God is Love  
Jn 15:9 As the Father has loved me  
Jn 17:24...you loved me before the creation...
6. Distinct and recognizable roles/functions Jn 14:28...Father is greater than I,  
I Cor 15:24-28 (No self-seeking)
7. Equality/Submission
8. Trust

## **The Family As God Created It**

I. Introduction: Mt 19:4...at the beginning the Creator made them male & female (Gen 1:27-28, 2:24)

:8...But it was not this way from the beginning

Present practice is not the point of reference, Original intention and purpose.

Pointed them back to 1. The Word of God, 2. The Creator, and 3. The beginning.

The key to effective family ministry is to understand the original design.

II. Marriage was made up of two people in His image-What were Adam and Eve like?

Gen 1:27-28 The reflected the nature and character of God.

Gal 5:22-23 Love, joy, peace, patience...(Description of God’s nature/character)

Mt 5:3-12 Humble, just, merciful

I Cor 13: Patient, kind not boastful, rude...

Col 1:15 ...image of the invisible God (Jn 14:9 Seen me-seen the Father)  
 Heb 1:3 Exact representation of his being (I Cor 15:45 1st Adam/Last Adam)  
 These scriptures give us the model for a husband, wife, son, daughter  
 How many would like a husband like Jesus!!! A Wife!!! Children!!!!  
 This is the type of father and mother God wanted all of us to experience.  
 The role of the husband/wife is to be like Jesus!  
 Thy will be done (in the family) as it is in heaven.

- III. Perfect Male/Female, Flawless, No imperfection or design flaw. Not defective in any way.  
 Together they reflected something of God/Clothed in God's glory
  - A. Unity/diversity (A perfect balance of oneness and separateness)  
 (Trinity 3 in 1) Gen 2:24-25 Shame free/sin free
  - B. Sexuality/Intimacy  
 Male/female-compliment, celebration, joy, shame-free, holy, pure, godly
  - C. A sin-free relationship-open, no alienation, fear, anxiety, guilt, abuse, shame  
 Innocence-They did not know they were naked.
- IV. Blessing of God (His presence was central to their life) Instituted by God
  - A. Gen 1:31...very good
  - B. Gen 3:8 ...walking in the garden in the cool of the day. (Gen 3:22 tree of life)
  - C. Communion with the Father/Filled with God's presence. God-centered
- V. Purpose/Task/Mission/Destiny
  - A. Gen 1:28 Dominion, fruitful, multiply, fill the earth with God's Glory, His presence and extend His Kingdom. Multiply heavenly life on earth.  
 The call to procreation, leaving a legacy, passing on a godly heritage,
  - B. Gen 12:1-3 All peoples/families on earth will be blessed through you.
- VI. God's Plan is Oneness-Gen. 2:24. The devil's plan-isolate, divide, and destroy.

### **The Family As Sin Made It (Gen 3)**

#### Introduction

Gen 5:3 Adam...the father of a son in his own...image and likeness (stamp of Adam)  
 Ex 20:5...visiting iniquity,...to the third and fourth generation. (Generation impact)  
 Rom 5:12...through one man sin entered (the family)  
 The dysfunctional family (Fallen family) All families are living below God's design.  
 We have a distorted and marred view of family life and God's character.

- I. Fear (Rejection, failure, punishment, future, death)
  - Gen 3:10 I was afraid...because I was naked...so I hid.
  - I Jn 4:18 No fear in love, perfect love casts out fear. (Love and fear can not coexist)
  - Performance-based relationships. Conditional love leads to fear. Presence of fear indicates absence of love.
- II. Guilt/Shame-A defective/bad person. Shame-based families. Something is wrong with you.  
 Shame-motivated relationships vrs. love-based relationships  
 Gen 3:7-10 Realized they were naked, hid from the Lord (Loss of God's glory)
- III. Broken Relationships (Alienation) Divorce  
 Gen 3 Vertical/Horizontal, Loss of eye contact, less than honest  
 Walls, barriers, distance, isolation, closed spirits, Hostilities, hardened hearts  
 Husband/wife, Parent/child, Brother/sister, Generations

#### IV. Blame

Gen 3:12-13 Each other, God, Devil

Defensive, pride, attack, judge, criticize. Blame heritage, partner, parents.

#### V. Pain/sickness

Gen 3:16-17 Multiplied in childbirth, toil

Woundedness, emotional pain, physical pain, relational pain, broken hearts.

Family can be the source of our deepest joys/pains. Rejected by most intimate friend

#### VI. Oppression/Abuse of power and position

Gen 3:16 Rule over you (Men abusing women/children)

Domination, control, abuse, intimidation. Corrupting influence of power and position. Spiritual warfare, conflict, enmity between Satan and humans

#### VII. Loss of blessing/communion/fellowship

Gen 3 Driven from the garden-Lost access to the tree of life. No longer had daily communion. Loss of intimacy. Lack of God's presence. Alienated, cut off. Spiritual darkness. Isolated. We were created for intimacy.

#### VIII. Death/Murder/Violence

Rom. 6:23 Wages of Sin. (Physical death, Spiritual, Darkness)

Gen 2:17 ...for when you eat of it you will surely die

Gen 4:1-12 Cain and Abel Violence/rage.

Gen 3:19 return to dust, 22-not allowed...tree of life

#### IX. Rivalry/Jealousy/Envy/

Strife, family feuds, selfish ambition, partiality. Parent/child, siblings.

Cain/Abel, Jacob/Esau, Sarah/Hagar, Isaac/Ishmael, Jacob/Laban

#### X. Drunkenness/Betrayal-Addictions

Gen 9:20-21 Noah

#### XI. Deceit/Manipulation/Lying/Dishonesty/Selfishness

Gen 12:10-13 Abraham & Sarah

Gen 27 Jacob/Esau, Gen 29 Jacob/Laban, Gen 39 Joseph/Brothers

#### XII. Incest/Rape/Sexualperversion/Lust/Immorality/Defilement/Strongholds

Gen 6 Sons of God/Daughters of men

Gen 19 Sodom & Gomorrah, Lot & daughters

Gen 34 Dinah raped (Jacob's daughter)

Gen 38 Judah/Tamar

#### XIII. God wants to set us free from the pains and distortions of our own model so we can speak into the family life of others. (Joel 2-I will make up the years) Transforming agents: The Character of God, The Word of God, The Spirit of God and the People of God. (Jn 8:31-32 Truth sets us free, Rom 12:2 Transformed mind, I Cor 3:18)

### **The Family As Grace Restores It**

God wants to restore family life

#### I. Restored Image (A Christ-like husband, wife, child, mother, father)

Eph 2:10...his workmanship. He wants to begin with YOU! You can change even if your partner/parent does not.

Rom 8:29...Conformed to likeness of His son

II Cor 5:17 New Creation-old things passed away, behold new things have come

Personal holiness, purity, the work of the Cross. Evangelism and Discipleship

Filled with the Spirit, maturity.

- II. Restored Blessing and Life, healing and freedom (Violet's testimony, Prayer ministry)
  - Jn 10:10 Abundant family life "Have it to the full"
  - Joel 2:25 I will make up (repay you for the years) to you the years...locust have eaten
  - Ps 27:10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me
  - A Father to the fatherless. No matter how bad it was God can restore!
  - Isa. 61:1-3, Captives/freedom, mourn/comfort, beauty/ashes, oil of gladness for mourning
  - Rom 5:20 Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more
- III. Restored Unity/Oneness (Gen 2:24, Ps 133-Anointing, life blessing)
  - Eph 2:14-18 He himself is our peace, Hostilities removed, walls broken down
  - Reconcile alienated people, "Power of the Cross"
  - Mal 4:6 Turn hearts
  - II Cor 5:18-19 Ministry of Reconciliation (To God and one another)
  - Remove barriers between: male/female, parent/child, generations, racial, social
- IV. A dwelling place for the Lord
  - II Cor 6:16-18 I will live with them and walk among them and I will be their God...
  - God wants to live in the midst of families. (Give Him his rightful place)
  - Restored fellowship & relationship
  - Rev. 3:20 I will come into him...
- V. Restored Destiny-A sense of purpose and mission
  - Leaving a legacy-Ps 78:1-8
  - The heritage you received is not as important as the legacy you will leave.
  - Children are the living messages we send to a time and a place that we will never see
  - Families reaching families, Gen 12 A blessing to the nations.
  - Families have a destiny.
- VI. Restoring God's Plan-Male/Female Roles (Unity/diversity) Becoming one flesh
  - Eph 5:21-33 Husbands/wives, I Peter 3:1-7 (Servant/leader and Loving/helper)
  - Eph 6:1-4 Parents/children-Honor, respect, Jesus and the Father's example.
- VII. Godly sexuality (Demonstrating godly union)
  - Marriage as the protective environment for expressing godly sexuality.
  - I Thess 4:3-8-God's will: purity, holy, honorable
  - I Cor 7:1-5-Meeting each other's needs
  - Song of Solomon-delight, Prov 5:15-23-satisfaction Heb 13:5 Undeified
- VIII. Restored Covenant (Foundation of the kingdom-God's covenant with his people)
  - Mt 19:4-6 Leave, Cleave, Become One, Gen 2:24
  - Upholding Covenant Love and The Character of God
  - Everlasting! Till death parts us. Faithful in the face of unfaithfulness.
- IX. Fight for the family
  - Nehemiah 4:14, Don't be afraid, remember the Lord who is awesome. Fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, your homes!!!!