

## The Baptist Faith & Message, 2000

### **XVIII. The Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle examples and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

[Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15, 17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8, 14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.](#)

#### **Key Text:**

- **Genesis 1:26-28:** "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." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 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."
- **Genesis 2:18-25:** "And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed

every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: „This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.“ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

- **Genesis 3:14-20:** 14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: “ Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” 16 To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; 3 Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.” 17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, „You shall not eat of it“: “ Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.” 20 And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.
- **Exodus 20:12:** “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”
- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9:** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
- **Psalms 127 & 128**
- **Psalms 145**
- **Proverbs (Almost all of it)**
- **Song of Solomon (All of it)**
- **Malachi 2:14-16:** Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. “For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with

violence,” Says the LORD of hosts. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

- **Eph 5:21-6:4 1 Corinthians 7:1-18 Colossians 3:18-21:** “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”
- **Titus 2:1-8**
- **1 Peter 3:1-7**

“The theology of family is characterized by each member outdoing the other in service, in sacrifice, and in submission to the Lord, reflecting gratitude for God’s faithful, intimate love toward us. Mark Rathel writes, ‘I am not aware of another denominational confessional statement that includes an article on the family.’ The importance of the marriage relationship unfolds symbolically in the Old Testament with God as husband and Israel as wife, and in the New Testament with Jesus as the bridegroom and the church as the radiant bride. Clearly, marriage and family are distinctly theological. A healthy home has deep spiritual dimensions, and thus the Bible instructs us concerning the family. We as believers must look first to Jesus Christ, our bridegroom, to engage and understand the divine design for marriage.”<sup>1</sup>

**Definition of the family:** Merriam-Webster defines the family as “a group of people who are related to each other; the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children; a group of individuals living under one roof and usually under one head.” The BF&M defines the family as “persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.” The Bible highlights the extended family. Family consists of parents and children, but also grandparents, in-laws, uncles, aunts, and cousins. Further, the practice of adoption beautifully portrays the family of God. Adoption reminds us that salvation from beginning to end is the act of God on our behalf.

**Purpose of the family:** The main purpose of the family is to illustrate the Gospel. The family testifies to the Gospel in that the Scriptures use the marriage bond as an illustration of the relationship between God and His people. Husbands are to reflect Christ! Wives are to reflect the Church. Children are to reflect God’s multiplication of disciples and expanding the Kingdom of God.

### **MAJOR THEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE FAMILY**

- 1) **The family is the foundational institution of society.** God created and ordained three social institutions for the benefit of all humanity, namely, 1) the family, 2) the government, and 3) the church. God birthed the church on the day of Pentecost. God instituted governments at some time after the historical entrance of sin into human experience. God instituted the social structure of the family first in the Garden of Eden, before humanity’s fall into sin (Gen 2-3). The family serves as both the foundational societal

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<sup>1</sup> Much of this material is based on Dr. Daniel Akin’s series on the BF&M 21 - Family delivered at Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC <https://www.danielakin.com/family-bfm-series-2000-part-21/>

unit and a microcosm of society. As the family goes, so go the societal institutions of government and church. The family mirrors God's nature as personal, relational, and communal.

- 2) **The family provides the altar of transformation where we learn to love and live like Jesus.** God reveals himself as a relational being, and we are created in his image for lasting, intimate relationships—first with God himself, and then with others. God's ideal for the home—an intimate relationship that brings deep soul satisfaction to both husband and wife—models grace and faith for the children and proclaims to a lost and lonely world the type of love that God has for his people. This intimacy extends from a spiritual foundation through a relational sphere and culminates in the physical expression within the bounds of marriage. The Scriptures give unique imperatives—directed to the husband, the wife, the parents and the children—that detail the incarnation of submission.
- 3) **The family of God operates in direct opposition to our culture and our natural tendency to self-centeredness, self-absorption and self-gratification, and requires the supernatural enablement of the Holy Spirit in mutual submission.** The key text is Ephesians 5:21-6:4. The godly husband will nourish and cherish his wife, loving her "as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her." The spiritual husband is a submissive servant of Christ (5:21), humble, gentle, faithfully putting his wife's welfare and needs above his own. The godly wife will respect and honor her own husband, submitting to him "as unto the Lord." Her character and conduct can draw even an unbelieving husband to faith (1 Pet 3:1-6). For each the Lord Jesus is the motivation and object of an obedient life. Both husband and wife, absolute equals before the Lord, fix their eyes first upon Him and then upon each other. Obedience for the Christian is neither optional, selective, nor conditioned upon the spouse's response or behavior. Should God bless such a household with children, they will witness daily submission and godly love as they are charged to obey their parents "in the Lord."
- 4) **The church is God's family that all are invited to join.** "The physical family is the most important building block to human society, and as such, it should be nurtured and protected. But more important than that is the new creation that God is making in Christ, which is comprised of a spiritual family, the Church, made up of all people who call upon the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. This is a family drawn "from every nation, tribe, people and language" ([Revelation 7:9](#)), and the defining characteristic of this spiritual family is love for one another: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" ([John 13:34-35](#))."<sup>2</sup>

### **THREE CALLINGS FOR THE FAMILY**<sup>3</sup>

- 1) **Teach Theology (Loving God).** God's call for family life is summed up in Jesus' summary of the law: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall

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<sup>2</sup> Quote taken from <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-family.html>

<sup>3</sup> Tedd Tripp's *The Ordinary Christian Family* <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/ordinary-christian-family>

love your neighbor as yourself" ([Mark 12:30-31](#)). Loving God and loving others is a good description of the theme of family life.

The family is the place for being mesmerized by the wonder of who God is and for instilling in children a profound sense of the glory of God. The psalmist puts it like this: "One generation shall commend your works to another" ([Ps. 145:4](#)). What does this look like? What do you talk about as one generation commending God to the next? [Psalm 145](#) tells us. It means meditating on the glorious splendor of God's majesty; speaking of God's majestic deeds; declaring His greatness; pouring out the fame of His abundant goodness; singing of His righteousness; speaking of the glory of His kingdom; talking of His kindness; speaking His praise (145:4-20). Love for God is instilled as we meditate on His glory and goodness. Children cannot be brought to delight in God in a conceptual vacuum. Parents show their children God's glory when the parents are caught up in the glory of God themselves.

- 2) **Teach Relationships (Loving Others).** Loving others is the response to loving God. This is the family business. Family life affords marvelous opportunities to show the love of Christ to others. Why? Because family living provides the greatest occasions for relational conflict. [James 4](#) addresses social conflict with the perceptive questions: "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not your passions that are at war within you?" (4:1). We typically look outside of ourselves for the reason for conflicts—"he makes me so mad"; "she laughed at my mistakes." James turns the tables on us. He says that relational conflicts come from desires that battle in our hearts. Our passions and desires produce conflicts. The family is the place to gain insight into the desires that wage war within and bring us into conflict with others. It is the place to identify the ugliness of self-love. Family living provides the opportunity to learn the excellence of sacrificial love for others and truly seek the interests of others. Family conflicts are not unwanted interruptions to the business of life. They are a vital part of learning to live in love. Family is a place for loving others.
- 3) **Teach the Gospel.** Family life is a school for the gospel, a place for living out the grace of God. Conflicts that arise as we strive to live together in love show our profound need for the grace of the gospel. We cannot love God and others without grace. Christ lived in human flesh without sin to provide us with righteousness that we can have no other way. He died to pay the guilt of our sin, fully satisfying the demands of God's law. Even now, He intercedes for us so that we might experience His grace and live as people who have known forgiveness and can extend forgiveness to each other.  
The family is not a place of perfection. We sin and are sinned against. Our children sin and are sinned against. We are tempted to resolve conflicts through human wisdom, but we lose the benefit of our conflicts if we try to resolve them without reference to the gospel. The conflicts of everyday life give excellent opportunities to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" [Eph. 4:32](#). Parents who understand that they, too, are sinners who get carried off by passions and desires can empathize with their children who sin. The parent who both understands the problem of sin and the grace and power of the gospel is able both to understand and to truly help children who sin. The experience of being a sinner who has found grace enables parents to bring the power and grace of the gospel to their children.

**What Family is For: Worship, The Cultural Mandate, Work, Rest, and More**

- I. **Creation:** The Who, How, Why, and What of Family (Genesis 1:26–28)
- A. **Who?** God created & sustains the world. God created & sustains my family.
  - B. **How?** We are made in the image of God. The people in my family bear the image of God.
  - C. **Why?** Our purpose is to be culture-makers together with God for HIS glory. God gave us a cultural mandate (Genesis 2:15–25)

There are only 4 things we can do at any given time: **Create, Cultivate, Consume, Critique**

- D. **What?** Genesis 1:28 God blessed the family (in order) to:
- 1. Give and Receive love
  - 2. Be conformed to the image of God's Son (Col. 3:10, Rom. 8:28-29)
  - 3. Make disciples

Being Made in the image of God implies 4 loving relationships:

- A love for God and what God loves us
- A love for one another (Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27)
- A love for self (Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27)
- A love for God's Creation

- II. **Fall:** Sin brought brokenness in the family and all of creation (Genesis 3:1–7)
- A. Sin brought a broken relationship with God, others, self, and the created order.
  - B. The negative impact of the fall is to take the GOOD things that God has given us and to make them ultimate things. The great temptation is to take any of God's good gifts (the gift of our spouse, children, work, play) and to make them ultimate.

God's Common Grace - Due to sin, the world is in a bad way, but it is not as bad as it could be. God, in his common grace toward man, has restrained the world from being in utter and complete horror. Often unbelievers don't believe they need the Savior, clinging instead to the created things that God has made and things they fashion with their own hands.

- III. **Redemption:** God does not leave his loved ones in their sin: God comes down to them and deals with their sin and shame.

**The Five Disciplines & Curses of the Fall & how they impact the family** (Genesis 3:8–19)

- A. Satan the Enemy (3:14) - He will deceive and he will be crushed.
- B. God the Savior (3:15) - He gives constant mercy and grace.
- C. Woman (3:16) - She has reminders of God's mercies and must beware of disordered desires.
- D. The Ground (3:17-18) - Sin impacts more than just the sinner.
- E. Man (3:19) - He has reminders of God's mercies and must beware of apathy.

- IV. **Restoration:** God makes a better covering and begins the work of restoration from the first husband and wife and continues through today. (Gen. 3:20-24)
- Through God's Word and God's Spirit, God redeems and restores families to worship and serve as they were intended to do.

### **Mission of the Family**

**Matt. 28:18-20** *18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

**Acts 1:8** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

## **Relationship Resources**

**Singles:** Isaiah 41:13; Isaiah 43:1-2; Isaiah 54:5; 55:6-9, John 15:9; 1 Cor. 7:28-35

- [\*Whole in Christ: A Biblical Approach to Singleness\*](#)
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/singleness-is-not-a-problem-to-be-solved>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/marriage-is-not-the-mission>
- [RightNow Media: Let's Talk.](#)

**Dating:** 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 1 Cor. 13;

- [\*Not Yet Married: The Pursuit of Joy in Singleness and Dating\*](#)
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/wait-to-date-until-you-can-marry>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/if-he-does-not-love-jesus-he-will-not-love-you>
- [RightNow Media: Love Is.](#)
- [RightNow Media: Outdated.](#)

**Engaged:** Gen. 1-3; Heb. 13, 1 Peter 3:1-7; Eph. 5:15-33; 1 Cor. 13;

- [\*Mingling of Souls by Matt Chandler\*](#)
- [RightNow Media: The Pre-Marriage Course.](#)
- [\*Preparing for Marriage God's Way by Wayne Mac\*](#)

**Married:** Gen. 1-3; Heb. 13, 1 Peter 3:1-7; Eph. 5:15-33; 1 Cor. 13;

- [\*Mingling of Souls by Matt Chandler\*](#)
- [\*Love & Respect\*](#)
- <https://xomarriage.com>
- <https://fiercemarriage.com/podcast>
- [RightNow Media: The Art of Marriage](#)

**Divorced:** Psalm 42:5; Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 30:5; Psalm 119:50; Phil. 4:19

- [\*Divorce Recovery: Growing and Healing God's Way\*](#)
- [\*Divorce and Remarriage\*](#)
- [\*The Complete Divorce Recovery Handbook\*](#)
- [RightNow Media: Reclaiming Your Heart](#)

**Widowed:** Psalm 52:8; 68:5; 91:4; 94:19; Isaiah 54:5; 2 Cor. 1; Duet. 10:18

- [\*Grace for the Widow: A Journey through the Fog of Loss\*](#)
- [\*A Grief Observed\*](#)
- [\*The Unwanted Gift: Hearing God in the Midst of Your Struggles\*](#)
- [faceinglossblog.com Lessons of Hope from My Unwanted Journey](#)



## **Family and Parenting Resources**

### **TECH WISE FAMILY (Andy Crouch):**

1. We develop wisdom and courage together as a family.
2. We want to create more than we consume.
3. We're designed for a rhythm of work and rest.
4. We wake up before our devices
5. We aim for no screens until double digits.
6. We use screens for a purpose and use them together.
7. Car time is conversation time.
8. Parents have each other's passwords and access to all kids' devices/accounts.
9. We learn to sing together .
10. We show up in person for the big events in life.

### **Books**

- [\*Family Discipleship: Leading Your Home through Time, Moments, and Milestones\*](#) by Chandler & Griffin
- [\*Family Worship\*](#) by Don Whitney
- [\*Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family\*](#) by Paul David Tripp
- [\*Fearless Parenting: Raising Godly Kids in an Ungodly World\*](#) by Sarah Blount
- [\*Full Circle Parenting: A Guide for Crucial Conversations\*](#) by Jimmy and Kristin Scroggins
- [\*Raising a Modern Day Knight\*](#) by Robert Lewis
- [\*Raising a Modern Day Princess\*](#) by Pam Farrel & Doreen Hanna

### **Free Content (Parkway Subscription)**

- RightNow Media: [Parenting by Paul Tripp](#)
- RightNow Media: [Parenting: Discipling the Next Generation](#) by Albert Mohler
- RightNow Media: [Sacred Parenting](#) by Gary Thomas
- RightNow Media: [The Art of Parenting: Aiming Your Child's Heart Toward God](#) by Family Life Media
- RightNow Media: [Raising Kingdom Kids](#) by Tony Evans
- RightNow Media: [Having a New Kid by Friday](#) by Kevin Leman

### **Recommended Articles**

1. [How Do I talk to my children about sex](#)
2. [Eternities in little moments](#)
3. [Should parents spank their children?](#)
4. [No parent can prevent suffering](#)
5. [When parents set the bar too low](#)