

The New Man in Family
Colossians 3:20-22
May 6, 2012

Introduction

Since creation, Satan and the world has ruthlessly attacked the Biblical definition of marriage. Satan has targeted marriage as the means to corrupt mankind further into depravity. In the beginning, God created marriage as one man and one woman joining together before God and people as witnesses. Not long after the Fall, we see the attack on marriage with Lamech, one of the descendants of Cain, who murdered his brother, Abel, marrying two women (**Genesis 4:19**). We need to understand that the goal to destroy marriage is not a new thing that has happened a few years ago, but it is an ongoing struggle with the world hating God's system and requirements. Today, the church is confronting a serious problem—the problem of the single lifestyle that is prevalent in the worldly culture. People are marrying later in life, holding off of family until they finish school, waiting until they get good jobs, making plenty of money, having “fun” before they become imprisoned in marriage. With the availability of birth control, contraceptives, and abortion, the world is “free” to pursue their own pleasures and

God created marriage. As we read in the Creation account in Genesis, we see that there was one thing that God saw was not good—that man was alone. He then created woman to be man's helper, to complement man in their life together. God then instructed the couple to be fruitful and multiply. God values marriage and childbearing. These are the two things that we as a church need to uphold and teach that it is God's precious blessing for us. Scripture encourages us to get married. In fact, being single happens to few people who are gifted by God to be single, but other than that, for the majority of the Christians, God encourages us to marry. (In fact, Paul encourages young widows to go ahead and get married and have a family—**1 Timothy 5:14**).

Another aspect of the family that the world attacks is the size of the family. I've listened to people telling me that having more kids is not wise and that we would be wise in preventing more kids because of money. In Scripture, having children is never a curse or an accident. Children are always a blessing from God. He is the One who created the children in the first place. God didn't create Adam and Eve and then backed out and let nature do its job. He is the Creator of life.

Psalms 127:1- 5 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 keeps awake in vain. ²It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for He gives to His beloved even in his sleep. ³Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. ⁵How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.*

God is the One who determines the size of the family. He will sustain and provide for His people regardless of how many children they have. As Christians, we should be rejoicing when a family trusts in God in determining how many children He will provide. Remember there are no accidents in pregnancy because God creates all people! If we allow the world to determine how many children we have (because of status, money, etc) then we are not trusting God in His sovereignty. We are, in effect, telling God that we know what we can handle better than You.

By nature we want to satisfy our every evil desire, but God has commanded us to submit to each other—Husbands submitting themselves to their wives' needs and wives submitting to their husbands' leadership. This submission only happens when we are in Christ. When we placed our faith in Christ, our old self was crucified with Christ and buried with Him. When we were raised with Christ, our new self was created. Paul continues his line of thought with the family.

Colossians 3:20-21 *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

I. Children's Responsibility

Note: The children Paul mentions here are probably children that understand and think about God's words. He is not talking about young children.

- Obey your parents
 - Why?
 - Pleases the Lord
 - God commands the children to obey parents

Exodus 20:12 *Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

- Disobedience to parents (in a rebellious way) is same as rebelling against God

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 *If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, ¹⁹his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. ²⁰They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard." ²¹Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.*

- Honor your parents
 - Commandment with a promise

Ephesians 6:1-3 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother"-which is the first commandment with a promise- ³"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."*

- Long life = quality of life

Note: the quality of life—if we honored our mother and father and did what they said, we would not be getting into trouble with the law, having trouble with relationships, etc. We would have a long and full life.

- Honoring is an attitude and obeying is the action
 - As a child we welcome our parents' discipline

Proverbs 13:1 *A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.*

Proverbs 15:5 *A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.*

- Love for parents within context of obedience

II. Parents' Responsibilities

Note: Being parents is not easy and it is an awesome and heavy responsibility. We do not have the nature to teach children. It is because the cross of Christ that we are able to do what God wants us to do. Scripture gives us guidelines on how to parent our children. Solomon gives us plenty of resources. I want us to notice what Solomon says repeatedly in Proverbs...he urges his son to listen to him (1:8, 10, 15; 2:1, 3:1, 11, 21; 4:10, 20; 5:1, 20; 6:3, 20; 7:1; 19:27; 23:15, 19, 26; 24:13, 21; 27:11; Ecclesiastes 12:12).

- Children must be taught because they lack in four areas
 - Mental

- Physical
- Social
- Spiritual

Luke 2:52 *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

Note: Luke gives us something interesting about children growing into adults. He gives us four things that every child needs, and what as parents, we need to do everything possible to ensure that we meet the four needs of a child.

- Do's for parents

Note: These advices are not guarantees that if we do this, then our children will turn out alright and be Christians. Sometimes, we place much guilt on the parents if their children turn out bad. While it is true that the parents bear some responsibility for what they do, not all of the blame is place on them—after all, if the son or daughter was rebellious, then God them placed to death. Think about the first perfect man under the instructions of the perfect Father in the perfect environment. Did God fail as a parent? (I speak as a fool.) As parents it is your responsibility to do what God commands you to do and trust Him with the results. After all, we do not change the children's hearts.

- Instruction

Ephesians 6:4 *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

- It is the responsibility of the parent to teach their children about God

Note: What we are doing is not that we are changing behavior but that we are trying to lead them to the Lord with their hearts changed. We are leading them in the fear of the Lord.

- You teach your children the value of Scripture for every part of life

Note: Notice what Moses commands Israel. He tells them that in every aspect of their life...in their work, their activities, they are to live the life of knowing and worshipping God, and as a result we are to tell our children that we live according to what Scripture says.

- You are developing their worldview through Scripture

Proverbs 1:8 *Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.*

Proverbs 2:1 *My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,*

- Discipline

Note: Instruction cannot live apart from discipline.

Proverbs 3:11 *My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent His rebuke,*

- Rod

Proverbs 10:13 *Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment.*

Proverbs 22:15 *Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.*

Proverbs 23:13-14 *Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. ¹⁴Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.*

Note: Wow, another way of looking at it, if we discipline our kids corporately, then we would be protecting our kids from harm—death, and possibly, we'd be helping with their salvation.

Proverbs 29:15 *The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*

- What is this rod?
 - Symbol of authority (like sword for government)
 - Always in area of punishment
 - Can be spanking (with stick or hand), time-out, corner sitting

- Correction

- Verbal instructions

Note: discipline for the sake of discipline will not work unless the parents take the time to explain to the children why they were punished.

- Don'ts for parents

Ephesians 6:4 *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

Colossians 3:21 *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

Note: Paul is saying that do not cause your children to become angry and resentful.

- Discourage your children

Note: I can't do this right now. Later.

- Show favoritism
- Have unrealistic expectations
- Show no affection
- Have no discipline

Proverbs 29:15 *The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*