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"Why The Family?"
Genesis 2;18-15; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Ephesians 5:18-6:20

A small boy came in from play and climbed up in his mother's lap.

"Mom," he asked seriously, "where was Dad born?"

"He was born in Oklahoma, honey." His mother quickly replied.

"Where were you born?" persisted the lad.

His mother smiled and said, "I was born in Alabama.

"Where was I born?" the fellow asked.

"You were born right here in Ohio," his mother replied.

The little fellow grinned and exclaimed, "Isn't it wonderful that we all got together!"

Evidently, this lad was enjoying his family. And shouldn't that be the experience of everyone in a family relationship?

But it's not always so as we see the breakdown in the family today with divorce, with some suggesting one in two marriages end in divorce, with a million teenage girls each year getting pregnant out of wedlock, 300,000 American teens have an abortion every year. Some say that 60 % of all church-involved teenagers are sexually active. Of the more than 15 million new STD (Sexual Transmitted Diseases) infections each year: two-thirds will occur in people under 25 years of age. One in four will occur in teenagers. Every year, approximately 10 billion dollars is spent on major STDs other than AIDS and their complications. This cost is shared by all Americans.

Then there is a big push by some today for same sex marriage (so called), which is really only an agreement, not traditional marriage as originally intended. Sadly, some U.S. judges think that traditional marriage needs to be redefined, which really defines what our society is all about.

In fact the whole idea what the family is about has changed drastically in our society. View with me some comments about what the family is. ([Show Video Clip](#))

Obviously, there are a lot of different ideas of what the family is from these various individuals. At the same time, there is a lot of emotion and a lot of hurt, even some satisfaction in what is said.

With the many challenges the family faces today, along with a lot of confusion about what the family is, it is well for us to consider, as we continue with some of the "Basics About God" during the summer months, to consider "Why The Family?"

To answer that question let's consider the following.

1. The Family's Origin (Genesis 2:18-25).

The biblical revelation gives us the answer to the family's origin. God is the Creator, the Originator of the family unit. God created Adam and Eve and brought Eve to Adam to be his wife. (This was the first wedding). God joined Adam and Eve together and they become one flesh in the Lord.

Now I realize that in the public arena today this account is not accepted as historical fact. It is a nice story, but not an actual happening. Many years later, though, in Matthew 19:4-5, Christ quoted from Genesis 1 & 2 stating that in the beginning God created them male and female, and said that a man would leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wife and they would become one flesh. Paul agrees in Ephesians 5:31.

Jesus Christ believed that Adam and Eve were historical people. He also believed that God established marriage and the family. Since Jesus believed that God established marriage and the family, there should be no doubt that God is the Originator of the family unit.

Four things are apparent in this union of Adam and Eve called marriage.

- (1) **It brought about a shared relationship.** The husband and wife would share together their lives with each other spiritually, emotionally, volitionally, intellectually, and physically in the most intimate relationship on earth. Their relationship would be a picture of the relationship between Christ and His church.
- (2) **There would be a shared identity.** The husband and wife would establish their own unique home.
- (3) **There would also be a true cohesiveness.** The word, cleave, means a separation proof relationship, telling us that marriage is for life. The words, one flesh, suggest a oneness and a dynamic that would always draw them together. That's why divorce is so hard and devastating, and why there is a desire among siblings separated at birth, to be reunited later in life. The one-flesh relationship between husbands and wives and then children is powerful. It's God's way to establish strong families who can make their unique contributions to society.
- (4) **The basis for living as a family was established,** for God planned that the husband and wife would have children, as they were to be fruitful and multiply in the earth (Genesis 1:28).

The word, family, originally referred to a household. The householder was the nourisher and protector. The household consisted of people of a common ancestry. They thus could trace their lineage to a common origin, that is, to the same father.

God, then, created the first marriage to be a family unit. It was to include a father and mother and children. God's design was for the family to be the basic unit of society. That's why God created marriage and the family first when He created the world, then, He created government and the church. **God designed the family unit to provide the structure and cohesiveness necessary for a society to develop and grow peacefully and profitably.**

Regardless of the thinking in the popular arena today, God has established marriage and the family unit.

2. The Family's Foundation.

Since God created the family, it only follows that He is the foundation for the family. By that I mean, since the Lord is the foundation for the family, every member in the family needs to know the Lord personally.

As we follow through from Genesis 2, we discover that sin came into the human race through Adam and Eve's disobedience. Fear and shame came into the lives. They didn't take responsibility for their actions blaming someone else. Hatred was evidenced in the life of Cain. He hated his brother Abel so much that He murdered him. The family unit that God created was rocking and rolling. Still God had provided His grace and forgiveness in the promise of the Redeemer before this in Genesis 3:15. Seth was born, and the promise of the Redeemer was still in tack.

Christ, the Redeemer, did come, died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin of breaking God's commands, He was buried, rose again from the grave bodily, and ascended into heaven.

Today, the husband is to love His wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. The wife is to be in subjection to her husband as to the Lord. The children are to obey their parents in the Lord (Ephesians 5:25,22; 6:1).

Paul is assuming that those in the family unit have accepted Christ as personal Savior and are letting Him provide the direction and strength for living together in the family unit. Christ is truly the eternal foundation for the family. He is the unseen guest in the home of the family that knows the Lord personally. Perhaps, you have heard of people having a place set at the table, where no one sits, for that is for the Lord, who is always the unseen guest at the meal.

In fact God the Father, lives in each believer in that family unit (I John 4:15) Christ lives in each believer of that family unit (Colossians 1:27), and the Holy Spirit lives in each believer of that family unit (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian family, as well as the One who is to be the center in the family. All family members are to be obeying Him, seeking to please Him in their relationships as a family.

And what is the family's design. How is put together.

3. The Family's Design

(1) We must understand the relationship in the Godhead.

The God of the Bible is not a God of disorder but a God of peace and order (I Corinthians 14:33, 40). There is one God existing in three persons, as God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. **In that relationship, there is authority, submission, unity in diversity.** Christ taught in John 15: 26, while on earth that He would send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and the Holy Spirit would proceed from the Father. When the Holy Spirit came He would bear witness of Christ.

Christ also as the Son submitted to His heavenly Father on earth, doing His work, and eventually going to the cross, submitting to suffering and death to pay the penalty for our sin. In that process, the Lord depended on the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out His tasks for His heavenly Father.

In that relationship of the Godhead, there is an understanding of who is the final authority, God, the Father, as the Son submits to Him and the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, and applies the work of Christ to the believer in Him.

In that relationship there is unity in the diversity, for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have different roles but they act in complete and perfect harmony in their relationship. There is community as well. There is complete understanding and acceptance without any glitch whatsoever. This is an eternal relationship.

In our world which is plagued with a breakdown in relationships, it is most refreshing to know that there is a perfect relationship that has existed from all eternity. It is the relationship in the Triunity, which is an example to all of us to be challenged to have peace and harmony in our relationships, particularly that of the family unit, as well as the church of Jesus Christ.

(2) We must understand the relationship in the family.

We need to understand that God who exists as a Triunity has patterned that family after that relationship in the Godhead.

What does the family look like? There is a husband, a wife, and a child or children. There are three different aspects to that family unit. As there is God, the Father, God, the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.

In that family unit there is authority, submission, unity in diversity.

How so?

What does Ephesians 5 tell us?

The husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church, and gave His life for the church (Ephesians 5:23m 25). The wife is to submit to her husband, as the church submits to Christ (Ephesians 5:22,24), and the children are to obey their parents and to honor them (Ephesians 6:1-2).

As the head of the wife, and really the family, the husband has the authority, which includes privilege and responsibility from God to provide loving servant leadership for his wife and family, while submitting to Christ. He is not a dictator, but through word and example he seeks to lead His family in the way of God's righteousness and truth. He is to minister to his wife, encouraging her to grow in Christ as well as that of His children disciplining them in love.

The wife is to submit, that is, not losing her identity, but rather finding her protection and freedom under her husband's leadership, while submitting to Christ. The husband and wife are to work together to develop their relationship and that of the relationship with their children. The husband has different roles to play as well as the wife, along with the children.

In fact there can be learning from one another.

The story is told of the wife who noticed the new neighbors who moved in across the street. Every evening she peeked through the window and watched the husband as he came home.

She couldn't miss the fact that every night he would bring flowers and a little gift to his wife. She would run to greet him, and he would hand her the flowers as a gift. They would hug and kiss, and they would close the door behind them.

After watching this romantic scene night after night, she finally reached the breaking point.

The moment her husband walked in the door, she said, "have you noticed that we have new neighbors across the street?" "Yeah," he replied, "I've noticed that we have new neighbors across the street as he dropped his briefcase on the floor, fell into the easy chair, and started watching television. "Yeah, I've noticed that we have new neighbors across the street."

But the wife continued, "Have you noticed what they do every night?"

"No," the husband replied, "I haven't noticed what they do?"

His wife kept talking, "Everyone night when her husband comes home, he gives her a big kiss, he hugs her, and he almost always brings her a special gift?"

The husband stared at her with a puzzled look on his face and said, "Honey, I couldn't do that. I hardly know the woman!"

Yes the family can certainly be a learning experience as each is open to the other and teachable, which is not always easy as they illustrations tells us.

In the final analysis, the headship of the husband, means that God holds the husband responsible for what transpires in the family, while Christ is responsible for providing loving leadership for the church.

But the key for the Dad is to build relationships with his children when the are small so as they grew up the relationship can continue in a more adult manner. What can happen is that Dad doesn't realize that he needs to spend time with his children building those lasting relationships with them. The wise Dad realizes that time spent with his children is more important than doing his own thing with the other guys.

Children are to obey their parents and honor them. Of course the wise parents build relationships with their children which must be mixed with proper discipline and direction.

In that process as the family interacts together, each member is submissive to Jesus Christ, seeking to honor Him displaying their oneness in Christ.

What are the dynamics of the family? As we mentioned there is authority, submission, unity in diversity - the same ingredients displayed in the Triunity – in the Godhead.

Amazing how God has designed the family with a pattern that is part of His nature as He eternally exists in three persons in the Godhead.

Which leads to a fourth area.

4. The Family's Purpose.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, which includes the nation Israel's confession of faith, the Shema, which means to hear, gives us some insight into what the family's purpose is.

(1) The family provides the environment in which individuals can come to know Christ personally.

Deuteronomy 6:1-2 says that commandments and the statutes of the God are to be commanded and taught that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and commandments.

In the Old Testament setting, the parents were to teach their children about the Lord so that they would believe in Him and follow Him. In the full revelation today in the Bible, since Christ has come, the family is the place to teach children about the Lord so that they will see their need of accepting Him as Savior and living for Him.

(2) The family provides the environment where individuals learn to love the Lord and put Him first in all that they think, do, and say.

Deuteronomy 6:4 & 5 (Also see Ephesians 6:4) says that Israel should hear that the LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your might.

The family provides the opportunity for the father and mother to demonstrate their love for the Lord before their children. As the husband serves his wife, and as the wife serves her husband, the children are given a powerful example of their love for God, for each other, and for their family. That mixed with forgiveness, encouragement and Christ-like discipline when needed provide the children the necessary ingredients to grow in their walk with the Lord. Wise parents, pray for their children, play with their children and praise their children.

(3) The family is God's environment for producing men and women who will carry on the heritage of the God created family.

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 tells Israel to teach diligently the LORD's commands, and talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates.

I understand that the Jews placed a copy of the Shema in a metal box or a skin bag and placed it on the door. Later the Jews practiced the command of Deuteronomy 6:8 by wearing phylacteries, leather pouches, where they put in little part of the law,(could be this passage here in Deuteronomy) binding it to their foreheads and on the left arm above the elbow.

Of course the emphasis for us today is that the family is the place where our children can not only come to know Christ personally, and learn about loving the Lord and obeying Him, but they also gain a personal appreciation for the Word of God through Bible Stories, good books, and learning to have a personal time with the Lord through the Word of God, and experiencing praying together as a family. The family is that place, then, where the children gain a biblical world-view and know what they believe and why they believe it. It's the environment in which they can feel safe to wrestle with the things of God and making Him personal in their lives.

The family is to be that place where the children learn that God is alive and He lives in their lives through faith in Christ, and living for Him is a joy and privilege.

As the children leave home, they will eventually establish another Christian family passing onto their children the reality of Jesus Christ, knowing Him, and living for Him by putting Him first in one's life. They will also bring their godly lives to bear on the culture in which they live.

In all the dynamics that go into making a godly family, God has an ultimate purpose for the family.

4. The Family's Ultimate Purpose.

****To reflect the nature of God.**

Since God has designed the family like unto the relationship in the Godhead, it only follows that the family is to reflect the nature of God. That's quite a thought to say the least. The family, father, mother, and children as they live together are to reflect the authority, submission, the unity in diversity, yes, harmony in the Godhead – the very nature of the eternal God.

Which means in reflecting that nature of God, the family is

****To bring glory to God.**

I Corinthians 10:31 tells us that whether we eat or drink, in whatever we do, we are to do all to the glory of God

As the husband leads his wife and family as Christ leads the church, as the wife submits to her husband as the church submits to Christ, and as the children obey their parents, the very nature of God is seen in the family and God is glorified. Yes, it is evident that God lives in that family.

God has created and designed the family to reflect His nature and to glorify Him.

At the same time there is an ongoing challenge for the family that God has created.

5. The Family's Ongoing Challenge.

If you start reading at Ephesians 5:18 and read through Ephesians 6: 4, we discover God's design for the family. Then in Ephesians 6:5-9, Paul gives instructions about how we should function in the work place. Next Paul starts talking about the spiritual battle that we are in as followers of Jesus Christ.

Why does God direct Paul to write about the spiritual battle the believer is in right after writing about the family, and work place?

(1) Satan's intent is to destroy the biblical family God has created.

God knows that Satan desires nothing better than to distort and destroy the family that He has designed to reflect His nature and bring glory to Him.

I trust that you realize that what is happening with the breakdown in the family today, couples living together before marriage, the illicit sex, the push for same sex agreement (not marriage), the sexual transmitted diseases, those who want to have a sex change, is all Satan's design to destroy the family.

For as Satan brings about the destruction of the family, he is seeking to attack the very nature of God and to make fun of who He is. Through television sitcoms, and Hollywood movies, Satan seeks to attack and destroy the very nature of God through various presentations of illicit sex and the breakup of the family.

Satan is in high gear today in our culture. He can't become incarnate, so he uses the ideas and philosophies of men to tear down the very nature of the Holy God revealed in the family unit.

How long God will put up with such rebellion? I'm not sure. But as God judged Israel for its idolatry and immorality desecrating the very nature of God, America can not hope to escape. God has a lot of grace, not willing that any should perish, but when His very nature is maligned more and more, His day of justice will soon come.

So what is the believer in Jesus Christ to do?

(2) The believer in Jesus Christ is to follow God's commands.

(1) Be controlled by the Holy Spirit of God (Ephesians 5:18-20).

****Personally – It is a present command to be continually filled or controlled by the Spirit of God.**

- Have a new talk - not putting people down, but building people up
- Have a new tune – not a complainer but making sure God receives the praise and glory in one's life.
- Have a new thanks – It is God who is the source of life and my new life in Christ. He deserves my thanks recognizing that He is sovereign over all.
- Have a new trust – Subject to one another in the fear of the Lord. All of us have our faith in Him as we respect one another and honor one another.

****Marriage and family.**

The Holy Spirit must affect the family where Christ is present in order for the family to have harmony in Christ.

Husbands love your wives, laying down yourself for her, serving her, (honor and respecting her) as Christ loved the church.

Wives respect and honor your husband submitting to him as the church does to Christ.
Children obey your parents and honor them.

Each member of the family obeying the Holy Spirit will bring harmony to the family. Yes, I know the old sin nature is always around, but when there are things said and done not honoring God, a person sensitive to the Holy Spirit will be quick to ask forgiveness and want to mend the break. **Obeying the Holy Spirit releases His power within each person in the family to keep sensitive to His indwelling presence and desirous to obey His will.**

I realize that there are single parent families today. God bless and strengthen those moms who are in that environment. We need to pray for our single moms and support them as best we can. Things happen in the family where the devil gets in and causes all kinds of disruption. Keep praying for God to intervene, and keep focused on the Lord. He is still in control.

The Holy Spirit must also have control of the Christian employer and employee so that God will be honored in his or her life.

(2) Be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10). (in the power of His might).

Be strong means to be invigorated, to be energized in the Lord.

It is a present imperative, meaning the believer should be invigorated, energized in the power of the Lord at all times. It is also middle voice meaning that it is God's power at work in us by the Holy Spirit who energizes the believer as he or she obeys the indwelling Spirit.

In your personal life and in your family life, yes in your job situation, be energized in the power of the Lord. Rely on Him not yourself for strength.

(3) Put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-17).

"Put on" is an imperative a command, but it is a once for all action. We are to put on the whole armor of God and keep it on, not to take it off. We don't have to put it on every day, once we put it on it stays on. The believer is to use God's armor every day.

Why? The battle is not in the material world, but in the spiritual world. Satan is on the loose to destroy the nature of God as portrayed in the family, and the church. Yes, Satan is on the loose to deceive us into thinking that right is wrong and wrong is right. Satan is on the loose to deceive the very elect that right doctrine is not necessary for spiritual fellowship, just get together on feeling love and community.

What's happening in our world is driven by the spiritual con artist Satan. And he is having a heyday at this time. He wants to take away our freedoms in this land, so that his control can come through those he is influencing to accomplish his purposes. In God's time, that will all end, praise the Lord.

But in the mean time, as followers of Christ, we need to realize what we have in Christ and use what He has given us to defeat the temptations of Satan and go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The believer, then, is to take up (Imperative and once for all action), the full armor of God to resist the devil (Ephesians 6:13) and to stand firm (take your stand- Imperative - once and for all against the evil one).

Use truth (loins girded) , righteousness (breastplate), the gospel (feet shod) the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, the word of God.

Put on Christ and let Him influence your mind, emotion and will, so that you will think His thoughts, love like Him, and do His will. Remember, it's the word of God that defeats the evil one.

Yes. put on the whole armor of God individually and in the family, yes the church, and at work.

(4) Be a person of prayer (Ephesians 6:18).

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints."

Be a praying individual. Be a praying family. We need to be a praying church. Prayer releases the power of God in our lives to use the armor of Christ. Through intercession for others God releases His power to change lives and circumstances. Praying for individuals, for family members, for those in the church family, for those of our relatives and friends needing to know the Lord personally. Be praying for our government and the upcoming election. Be praying that the strongholds of lust, greed, immorality, and deception will be broken down through the blood of Jesus Christ. Be praying for God's Word to have free run at the Olympics.

(5) Be a witness for the Lord as He gives the opportunity (Ephesians 6:19-20).

"And pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly as I ought to speak."

In a world where Satan is having a heyday at this time, we need to be a witness for Christ as He gives us the privilege. We should be praying each day for an opportunity to say something for the Lord. This keeps our faith alive and using that part of the armor with our feet shod with the gospel of peace.

Let's remember since the Lord is for us, no one is against us. We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. We are victors in Christ as we serve Him in our families and where ever He puts us.

Why the family?

God created the family as the basic unity of society to display His nature and to glorify Him so that a society would develop that would display His character and He would receive the glory.

Yes,

A house is a house is a house - until Christ's love comes through the door, that is.

And His Love transforms a house into a very special home for very special people: your family.

Money, of course, can build a charming house, but only Christ's love can furnish it with that lasting sense of home.

Duty can pack an adequate sack lunch, but Christ's love may decide to tuck a little love note inside.

Money can provide a television set, but Christ's love controls it and cares enough to say no and take the feedback that comes with it.

Money can also buy gorgeous carpets but Christ's love invites the kids for a scramble on the floor at times.

Obligation sends the children to bed on time, but Christ's love tucks the covers in around their necks and passes out kisses and hugs (even to teenagers!), while praying with and for them.

Obligation can cook a meal, but Christ's love embellishes the table with a potted ivy trailing around slender candles.

Duty writes many letters, but Christ's love tucks a joke or a picture or a fresh stick of gum inside.

Compulsion keeps a sparkling house, but Christ's love and prayer stand a better opportunity of producing a happy family.

Duty gets offended quickly if it isn't appreciated. But Christ's love learns to laugh a lot and to work for the sheer joy of doing it.

Obligation can pour a glass of milk, but quite often Christ's love will add a little chocolate.

Duty impatiently waits on the family, but Christ's love waits on the Lord.

Duty makes an institution, but Christ's love builds a home! AMEN!!

