

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND THE HOME

Headline:	1. THE FAMILY	2. MARRIAGE	3. THE HOME
Character and purpose:	<p><i>The family is the basic building block of society.</i> Man was not made to be alone but to be married and have a family. The family provides structure, support and loving care for the individuals in it, and preserves society's stability, well-being and future. A new family is formed only when a marriage takes place. Though families may differ due to divorce, bereavement and childlessness, this does not imply that "any group of individuals" can be called a family. Cohabitation, polygamy and same sex parenting are contrary to the Bible's blueprint.</p>	<p><i>Marriage is the cornerstone of the family.</i> Biblically defined, marriage is the joining together by God of one man and one woman in a life-long covenantal one-flesh union, modelled on Christ and His Church. Designed by God, marriage is a divine institution to be highly esteemed and valued. Neither society nor the government created marriage, thus neither has the right to redefine it. As for its purpose, marriage was designed for companionship, completeness, enjoyment, fruitfulness (children), protection, preservation, and stability within the family and society.</p>	<p>God's ideal is that the home be the safest, most harmonious and blessed place on earth. The home is the centre of family life, where children are raised in the fear of God, where character is developed, and hospitality is shown. It is the centre of gravity for the family – the base of operations for the married couple. God is served and glorified in the raising of a godly family in a well-ordered home every bit as much as by any of the great works performed by well-known and prominent Christians over the centuries.</p>
Bible refs:	Gen 1:27-28, 2:18, 24, 9:1, Exod 20:12, Eph 5:22-6:4, Col 3:18-21, 1 Tim 5:4, 8, Titus 2:1-6	Ge 2:18-24, Mt 19:3-9, Eph 5:22-33, Heb 13:4, Col 3:18-19, 1 Tim 5:14, Titus 2:4-5, 1 Pet 3:1-7	Gen 18:19, Prov 1:8, Rom 12:13, Prov 29:15, Eph 6:1-4, Col 3:20-21, 1 Ti 2:15, 3:5, 1 Pet 4:9
Roles and duties:	<p>Entering a family at birth, human beings come into numerous divinely designed pre-existing privileges and responsibilities, which differ between parents and children, fathers and mothers etc. The family is a unique and invaluable support system. In youth, children are cared for by their parents. In old age, parents are cared for by children. As the generations pass, the old pass on their experience and knowledge to the young.</p>	<p>Husband - as head he has authority over, but also responsibility for his wife, to love, protect, lead and provide. He is to provide for his wife's:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Material needs (1 Tim 5:8) 2. Spiritual needs (Gen 18:17) 3. Emotional needs (1 Pet 3:7) <p>Wife - as helper (strong ally) she submits to, supports and respects her husband, being his complement, closest companion and adviser. "Two shall be one".</p>	<p>Running a home and raising children is formidable task and a team effort:</p> <p>Father – has ultimate responsibility in rule, discipline and instruction as spiritual leader.</p> <p>Mother – manages/oversees the ways of her household (Prov 31:27). She is the <i>keeper of the home</i> [Gk: oikouros] (Titus 2:5). Bears children/<i>guides the house</i> [Gk: oikodespoteō] (1 Ti 5:14). The loving sacrificial duties of home and motherhood are at forefront of her role.</p>
Departures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adultery/polygamy The sin of unfaithfulness is a major cause of family, health and financial breakdown, corroding trust, stability and service. • LGBTQ+ These strike at the heart of Biblical male/female identity and therefore represent rebellion against divine order and truth. • Abortion/Euthanasia In murdering the unborn/old/disabled, humanity is breaking God's law and assuming 'rights' it does not possess. • Feminism Denies there are any divinely given different roles for the sexes. Views Biblical marriage as a sexist/patriarchal institution. • Chauvinism A false belief that men are superior to women. Part of a package with misogyny, domestic abuse and coercive control. • Child abuse Physical and/or sexual abuse of children is a crime, but properly administered corporal punishment is not. • Unruly children Disobedience, when not met with loving, firm and consistent parental discipline, undermines both family and national life. 		