

Children and Family | the biggest parenting challenges you will face, Part 7

I. From Security to Family

- If your children believe that it's their responsibility to achieve safety and satisfaction for themselves, then they will use all of the technology at their disposal to gain more and more of it. The more fleshly pleasure they gain for themselves, the more they will believe they are autonomous and tempted to throw off any authority they do not want in their lives. Once they believe they are the ultimate authority in their lives, they will have the right to define morality however they choose. That means only they can say which of the topics of sexuality are right for them — how they dress, how they identify themselves, how they view romance, how they physically interact with people, and the sexuality in which they get to engage.
- And once they redefine sexuality, they must give new meaning to the most basic human relationship structure of the family.
- The moment sexuality gets reorganized then family can mean whatever I want it to mean. From there on out “family” can refer to the three grown men and two children that a California judge recently recognized as a family. It can be a man pretending to be a woman married to a woman pretending to be a man. It can mean absolutely anything. In fact, when you redefine sexuality, you have to redefine the family.

II. God's Plan for the Family

- **The Family is Necessary for Procreation.** God, in His perfect wisdom, decided that men and women would need to have a sexual relationship in order to create new human beings.
- **The Family is Necessary for Physical Survival.** Humans are born completely dependent and would die days after birth if not for biological or adopted family. But even as we age we're dependent on each other for survival.
- **The Family is Necessary for Spiritual Survival.** In the same way that we come into this world completely ignorant, we also come into this world spiritually dead. The only way to have spiritual life and grow in it is to be shown God's truth by another and disciplined by them.
- **The Family is Necessary for Men and Women to be Complete.** It is not good that man should be alone. So God created a completer for him.
- **The Family is a Physical Picture of our Spiritual God.**
 - **The family structure mirrors God's relationship with Himself in the Trinity.**
 - The Holy Spirit submits perfectly to Jesus and the Father, and Jesus submits perfectly to the Father. And yet the Holy Spirit is no less God than Jesus Who is no less God than the Father. It's beautiful, it's fathomless, and yet it's directly applicable to our families.
 - God expects the children to submit to the mom and dad, and He expects mom to submit to dad. Yes, both parents and all of the children are unique and completely human, but within the family dynamic, each has a responsibility that only they can fulfill.
 - **The husband and wife's relationship mirrors God's relationship with the Church.**
 - Ephesians 5:22-33 is the best passage in Scripture to illustrate this point. God created marriage to be a physical representation of the glorious heavenly reality that God desires to have a relationship with us.
 - And the standard to which our human marriages are to rise is the perfect marriage relationship of God and His people into eternity.

- **The process of procreation is a physical representation of how we gain spiritual life.**
 - In John 3 Jesus explains to Nicodemus the nature of being born again.
 - Though pregnancy and birth have been marred by the curse of God due to the Fall of Man, it still represents important realities concerning spiritual birth. We are completely dependent on God for spiritual life in the same way no child ever was conceived of its own power.
 - We are completely dependent on God for spiritual growth in the same way no child grows in the womb because of anything they do.
- **The fact that we need our physical family to survive physically is a picture of the fact that we need our spiritual family to thrive spiritually.**
 - Going to church, listening to a sermon, singing songs, and going home is the equivalent of a child trying to survive by having a once a week conversation with his parents. And that's it. He doesn't live in the home, he doesn't benefit from his parents' finances, he doesn't eat their food, he doesn't have their physical affection . . . once a week he talks with them for about an hour at a coffee shop.
 - The rest of the week the kid is finding his own shelter, scavenging his own food, making other relationships with people outside of the family to scrape by.
- **Men and women's dependence on each other for completion is a physical representation of our ultimate dependence on God.**
 - Husbands need their wives in order to achieve their highest good.
 - Wives need their husbands in order to achieve their highest good.
 - In the same way that men need their wife's help, Christians need God's help in all things. And in the same way women need to submit to the leadership of their husbands, Christians need to submit to the leadership of God.

III. How the World is Attacking the Family

- **Dad is the Boss.**
 - Bosses determine the direction. Bosses determine the culture and behavior. Leaders lead other people in the right direction regardless of whose direction it is.
 - So, no, dads, you shouldn't be the boss of your homes. If you believe you should, or if you're functioning like you are, you're believing a lie.
- **Children are the Boss.** Children are to submit to and obey their parents. That's God's plan.
- **Mom is the Boss.**
 - The temptation to this started at the Fall. Eve wanted to be the one in charge, she wanted to do her own thing, and God prophesied that women would — from then on — struggle with the temptation to usurp her husband's authority in the home.
 - And — unfortunately — many men are more than willing to abdicate their authority.
 - It's just as sad and destructive as dads or the kids being the boss of the home.
- **Anyone Can Marry Anyone.**
 - Your children will one day be influenced by someone who believes that marriage is not one man and one woman for one life. Your kids will need to be grounded in God and His Word in order to overcome this temptation to want to redefine the family structure.
- **The Family is Dangerous and Needs to be Deconstructed.**
 - Most recently the radical left has been promoting a completely anti-family sentiment designed to destruct any familial concept entirely. In their minds, the "world village" is the smallest acceptable way to group individuals.