

# What's a Family Anyway?

## I. What the World Thinks

- A family is basically anything you want it to be.
- As long as the people live together, the world considers it a family.

## II. What God Thinks (Genesis 2 & Deuteronomy 6)

- A family starts when a man and woman are spiritually united to each other in God as husband and wife. This means the smallest biblical families have three people in them.
  - The family's highest goal is to glorify God. They do this by having a robust relationship with Him and by shining His character to all men. The most specific application of this is as each spouse helps the other grow in their relationship with their Lord.
  - This family's second highest goal is to steward this world. This occurs when they use and manage all their time, finances, and possessions wisely.
- As the family grows by the addition of children, the same two responsibilities exist, but they take on a new dimension.
  - The father and mother are still giving God the glory by growing in Him and helping sanctify their spouse, but they now have the added responsibility of discipling their children. And their responsibility to steward creation remains the same.
  - But now the children have been called to fulfill the same responsibilities as their parents. They, of course, will struggle at first, but they too have been called to . . .
    - Have a saving relationship with God and be following Him,
    - Be a shining light to their homes and the world,
    - And wisely steward the slice of creation God's entrusted to them.
- As the children grow, the family replicates as the children are sent out to start their own families.
  - Each child will forever be a son or daughter, but they've also been commanded to leave their parents and cleave to their spouses in Christ — and so create a new family.
  - As the children leave, the family returns back to its purest form as husband and wife continue growing in their relationship with each other and with God.
- This is the basic structure of a Christ-honoring family. Are people still a family even when they reject God? Of course, from a biological or legal standpoint they are. However, God didn't just create us to survive, He created us to thrive as families. He didn't just create humans to reproduce, control their kids or let them do whatever they want, and then die.

## III. How to Spend National Family Day

- Go to Church!
- Take a walk, go for a bike ride, play a game, cuddle, read out loud to them, play catch, cook-out, teach your children to fly a kite, teach them anything, get some ice cream and talk about all the things coming in the fall. Yes, talk. Definitely, talk.