

What's a Family For?

God designed the family to be a place where His love is displayed, His Word is taught, His character is modeled, and the next generation is prepared to serve Him. Before there was a government, before there was a school, before there was a church building, there was a family — Adam and Eve. So the question is not merely, “How do we have a happy family?” The deeper question is: What is a family for?

H - _____ God's Design

Genesis 1:27–28... “So God created man in his own image... male and female he created them. And God blessed them...”

- **Unique and Humble in relation to God.**

Genesis 2:24... “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

- **Respectful but Reoriented in relation to parents.**

Matthew 19:4–6... “Haven't you read the scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning God made them male and female.” 5 “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one”. 6... “let no one split apart what God has joined together.” - Jesus Christ

- **Committed and Permanent in relation to the vows.**

“Marriage is more than romance. Parenting is more than biology. Family is more than people living under the same roof. A biblical family is intended to be a living witness that God is Creator and Lord... & commitment is the key to success.” - Charles Stanley



FACT: THE FAMILY WAS ALWAYS GOD'S IDEA AND DESIGN, NOT SOCIETY'S OPINION.

O - _____ Life Around God's Word

Deuteronomy 6:6–9 “... Teach God's commands diligently to your children...”
Joshua 24:15... “...choose this day who you will serve...but as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”



God's plan was never for faith to be limited to a worship service or a day of the week.



FACT: The home is the first classroom of Christian discipleship.



FACT: Parents don't have to be theologians, but they are called to be faithful witnesses.

“IF WE DO NOT INTENTIONALLY TEACH OUR FAMILIES TO FOLLOW THE LORD, THE WORLD WILL GLADLY TEACH THEM TO FOLLOW SOMETHING ELSE.” - JAMES DOBSON

M - _____ Christlike Love

Ephesians 5:21–26... “And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ... 24 As the church follows the leadership of Christ, so you (Christian) wives should follow the leadership of your (Christian) husbands... 25 For husbands, this means love (agape) your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.”

Colossians 3:12–14... “...as God's chosen people, clothe yourselves with compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, self-control, and patience... 13 ... forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as Jesus forgave you ... 14 And above all these put on love (agape) ...”

The family is where we model patient love, forgiving love, sacrificial love, and self-giving love. Marriage is meant to reflect Christ and His relationship to the church.

“The home is not just a place where a Bible is on a shelf, rather it is a place where people see what grace looks like when it has skin on it.” - Zig Ziglar



Fact: Family members should see Christ in how we speak, how we apologize, how we forgive, how we serve, and how we handle conflict.

THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW US BEST SHOULD NOT HAVE TO **SEARCH** THE HARDEST TO SEE JESUS IN US UPON OUR ARRIVAL HOME.

E - _____ the Next Generation

Psalms 78:4–7... “We will tell to the next generation the glorious deeds of the LORD... 7 so that they should refresh their hope on God.”

- Tell the next generation what God has done.
- Teach children God's Word and commands.
- Help them put their hope in God.
- Warn them not to repeat the rebellion of past generations.
- Raise children whose hearts are faithful to the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4... “Bring children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”



A CHRISTIAN HOME IS NOT JUST A SHELTER IT IS A SENDING CENTER FOR THE LORD.



A CHRISTIAN FAMILY IS NOT JUST ABOUT LEAVING CHILDREN AN INHERITANCE; IT IS ABOUT LEAVING THEM A FAITH TO OWN FOR THEMSELVES.