

## **THE START OF A FAMILY**

- In today's society we are painted a very wrong picture of the family.
- Most people's experience or observations of a family is dysfunctional.
- The TV family is not what a family should look like.
- Maybe you were raised in a dysfunctional family or feel that you are currently in one.
- God designed families to function a certain way.
- Through this series we will take a look at what God and His Word has to say about this thing we call family.

### **Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV)**

**26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

**27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

**28** God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

### **Genesis 2:15-25 (NIV)**

**15** The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

- The first thing God did with man was He gave Him a job.
- Man was given a job before he was ever given a wife.
- The man is the head of the house and responsible for the financial stability and security of that household.

**(Single women need to look for a man with a job.)**

**16** And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

**17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

**18** *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

**19** *Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.*

**20** *So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.*

**21** *So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.*

**22** *Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

-God decided that man needed a suitable helper so he made a woman and brought that woman to man.

-God's design for a family started with a woman and a man. Not a man and a man or a woman and a woman.

**23** *The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."*

**24** *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

-Notice it says that man shall be united to his "wife."

-It did not say that man should be united to his girlfriend.

-God's design for a family starts with marriage.

-Notice after it says that man should be united to his wife it says that they shall become one flesh.

-Man and woman should never become one flesh (have sex) before marriage.

**25** *The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

-You should only be naked with your wife or husband.  
Enough said.

## **PURPOSE CREATES FUNCTION**

-A tool is useless until it is given a purpose.

### **Example: A hammer**

-A hammer is useless until you decide what you are going to use that hammer for. Once the hammer has been given a purpose it begins to function as a hammer.

-Families were designed with a purpose.

-Until a family operates in that purpose they will not function properly.

### **Joshua 24:15 (KJV)**

*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

### **Serve (Greek Translation)**

- To work, serve
- To labour, work, do work
- To work for another, serve another by labour
- To serve as subjects
- To serve (God)
- To make oneself a servant
- To be worked
- To compel to labour or work, cause to labour, cause to serve

-Many people confess this scripture over their family as if it only means to love God.

-Serving God is not an emotion or affection, it's an action.

## **GOD TIME IS FAMILY TIME**

-Too many families think that more family time will make them function properly.

-No amount of time or vacations will cause your family to function properly whether in good times or bad.

- A functional family **serves** the Lord together.
- Parents should be leading their family by example.
- Children do what they see being done.
- You should be serving your church in any way you can.
- When you serve you should always bring someone with you.
- Fathers should bring their sons to church work days and other events or opportunities where serving is needed.
- Everyone sitting around the dinner table eating does not make your family functional.
- A family that serves together stays together.

### **EACH MEMBER HAS A RESPONSIBILITY**

- In a functional family each member has a proper responsibility that helps that family to function properly.

#### **Colossians 3:18-21 (AMP)**

**18** *Wives, be subject to your husbands [subordinate and adapt yourselves to them], as is right and fitting and your proper duty in the Lord.*

**19** *Husbands, love your wives [be affectionate and sympathetic with them] and do not be harsh or bitter or resentful toward them.*

**20** *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.*

**21** *Fathers, do not provoke or irritate or fret your children [do not be hard on them or harass them], lest they become discouraged and sullen and morose and feel inferior and frustrated. [Do not break their spirit.]*

- God's Word has given instruction for each member of a family.
- If the father is not functioning properly, the whole family will not function properly.
- God puts a lot of responsibility on the father.
- A child's self esteem is linked to a father's actions.
- I once did my own pole/study of teenage boys who struggled with homosexual tendencies. Every one of these boys that I spoke with had a dysfunctional relationship with their father.

### **Tips for fathers with sons:**

1. Spend time with your boys. Teach them things that you know. That will help them connect with you on common ground.
2. Wrestle with your boys. Rough them up from time to time. Boys need to associate their gender with tough things. (Single moms, you need to do the same.)
3. Do not be too hard on them at an early age. Allow them to be children and make mistakes. Do not break their spirit.

### **HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CHURCH?**

- If a husband and wife are not functioning properly, neither will the family. Everything flows from the head down.
- A family's relationship with their church is vital.
- Joshua made the decision as to what his family was going to do. (Joshua 24:15)
- What kind of decisions have you made for your family?
- Does your family know that they are serving the Lord?

### **Matthew 6:33 (NIV)**

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

- The church does not come before your family, but that doesn't mean that you do not serve and sacrifice for your church.

### **Characteristics of a dysfunctional family:**

- Parents do not put an emphasis on family attendance in church.
- Parents go to separate churches.
- Father's do not go to church, but allow the mother to take the kids instead.
- Parents send kids to serve at church but never go themselves.
- Wife is head of the house.

- Jealous spouse. Many times men are not able to serve at the church because wives put pressure on them to be at home.
- Parents expect church leadership to raise their children.
- Thinking that more vacations or outings will bring a family closer together. Although family time is a must, it is not a cure. God instituted the family; therefore He is the only thing that can hold a family together.
- Kids are more active in the church than parents.
- Parents are more active in the church than kids.

-A family is an amazing strength to a church.

-Satan has done more harm in families than in any other group or assembly.

-Let's strive to be a functional family.

-Choose today what your house is going to do.

-As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.