

WHY THE FAMILY?

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The family is an important institution established by God himself after He made the earth and man. Marriage is honourable and originates from God. As in other things God created, there is a purpose for creating marriage and the family. Nothing happens for nothing. God does not create for the fun of creating something. Running the home well is essential in pleasing God. You cannot claim to be pleasing God when your home is not being run properly. The family must be happy, united and built on the Eternal Rock (Jesus Christ) for it to get God's approval. Family life is important that God through Apostle Paul demands that Church leaders must be men who run their families well. A leader must be a man of one wife, manage his family well, and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

1 Tim 3:1-5

3:1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

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Managing the family well has to do with righteousness and being upright. No man can claim to be righteous when he is not handling his home well. A righteous man fears the LORD and walks in the ways of God. He delights in the commands of the LORD. As a result, his children will be mighty in the land and blessed by God. The righteousness of parents keeps the family going well and blessed and protected by God. The righteousness of the parents lives long after they have passed on to glory. The greatest inheritance a man will give his children is the inheritance of God's covenant of blessing and favour which comes as a result of their faithfulness to God.

No man serves God and not be blessed and favoured. The family is therefore a place where children are trained to love and fear God and in return reap eternal and material blessings.

Ps 112:1-7

Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. 2 His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. 4 Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. 5 Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. 6 Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. 7 He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

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The man of God is directed to teach women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that

no one will malign the word of God. Family life is essential to the overall plan of God for the world.

Titus 2:1-8

2:1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. 2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. 3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. 6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. 7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness 8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

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Family as a place of training children to become responsible citizens of the society

The family is a place the word of God is taught and children raised in the way of God and in the fear of the Lord our Saviour. God designed that children be raised in a godly setting and be trained to believe in Him, and His word, and partner with him all their life. His plan for setting up the family is that children be raised to be responsible citizens of the community they live and make God known to all the world through righteous living and preaching.

Deut 11:18-21

18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

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Watching to preserve the faith of the family

The Holy Spirit revealed that in the last days which we are in now, wickedness will increase and people will become more sinful than ever, and the love of many will grow cold. The wickedness in the society will catch up with the church and cause a laxity such as has not been seen or witnessed before. For this reason the family we have to be strong in the word and in faith to be able to stay together and keep the children in the fear of God. This calls for commitment to the upholding the values of a godly home faithful watching over the children that God has given you that the corruption in the society does not catch up with them.

2 Tim 3:1-5

3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the

good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.
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1. THE FAMILY IS A STRATEGIC INSTITUTION

In the plan of God for mankind, the family is a strategic institution established by God himself. He had it in mind that through the family procreation will take place and the earth populated. He never planned that children will be born outside of marriage. His plan is that every child will be born into a legitimate family and be raised in that family to become great and fulfill his God given destiny on earth. God never designed man to be alone but to live in partnership with another.

He gave man a wife which He made out of the ribs of male man, and commissioned them to have children and populate the earth and have dominion over the earth and all that is in it. The family is strategic in the sense that the human society started through a family. The nucleus of the society is the family. If the family is run well, then godly and great men will be produced to make up our society. If families are run well, there will be no prostitutes, criminals and demon worshippers in our society. All the vices we see in our world today are a sign that the marriage institution and the family have not functioned the way it ought to. This means that we that claim to know God are God's hope of redeeming the world. If we fail now to make things right by respecting the marriage institution and running our homes in accordance with the word of God, then things can only get worse until God destroys man in anger.

You must ask yourself, "Why the family". Why not sex without marriage? The answer is "Responsibility". Sex brings responsibility. It gets a woman pregnant, and someone has got to be responsible for it and the baby that is coming. Someone has to help the pregnant woman and play the role of a father. The child has to be provided for, loved, taught, trained, disciplined to become responsible in the society. The child has to be given in marriage to another when grown, and be counseled as he or she lives life in other to be successful. The family is the responsibility of the couple married to each other. Marriage was not just designed by God to accommodate two people that are in love with each other, but to raise godly children to represent the interest of God in the society. The family is the first school of relationship any child has, and parents must take their time to teach and train them properly by words and example. The children learn by observation, listening to instructions, asking and receiving answers to questions, and from their own experiences. Therefore be careful how you impart them. Be careful what you say and do before them. Your home is their first school of life and relationship.

Gen 1:26-28

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."

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Gen 2:18-25

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

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2. THE FAMILY IS THE PLACE OF EVERY BEGINNING

Everything God ever did, He did through the family. To populate the world, he needed a married couple as a family to start from. When He was angry with man's wickedness and he decided to wipe man out and start all over again, he chose Noah's family because he needs a family. To build a new nation that will know Him as their God and through them introduce himself as God to the whole world, He chose another couple, Abram and Sarai. It is always a family He works through. A family was needed to bring in Moses into the world to bring Israel out of Egypt. For Jesus Christ to be born, a couple was sought for. Every new thing God ever did, He did through a family. The family is important to God.

That is why the devil is attacking marriages and families today. He knows that the nucleus of the society is the family. No family, no community. If you destroy the family, you destroy the society for the family produces the caliber of people that make up the society. Satan's attack is great on the family because he knows that God works through families; and if families are run properly, he will lose the society to righteous and faithful men who will do the will of God.

Protect the family by building your family on the word of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gen 2:1-16

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. 4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens-- 5 and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, 6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground-- 7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. 8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that

were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;
NIV

3. THE FAMILY IS AN INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNANCE

The family was designed to be a place where great leaders will be made by the reason of their training and upbringing in the home. Children learn how to give and take instructions, and responsibility at home. They learn many other things and virtues that will enable them contribute in the governance of their community.

Gen 1:28

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."

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The family is a place of:

a. Production and training of disciplined persons who will run the affairs of government and the society in the fear of God.

Ex 18:21

21 But select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

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b. Production of morally balanced, spiritual and secular educationists, who will impart knowledge to our children in all levels of institutions of learning.

Prov 22:6

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

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c. Production and training of well behaved children who will take over the mantle of leadership and transfer the act of good public and human relations to others.

d. Production of preachers and religious leaders who will practice what they teach and preach.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore the responsibility of every married man and woman to make sure that they run their homes the way God have prescribed in order to have success. It is important that the family

be run with the original purpose of God in mind. Give attention to your spouse to maintain peace and keep love fresh and active. Give attention to your children to make sure that they are raised in the way and fear of God Almighty.

For those not yet married, understand that marriage is not just living with the one you love, but fulfilling the purpose for God for the earth, so you must make sure that you involve God in the choice of a partner so you have the best partner that will enable you fulfill God's purpose. Marriage is responsibility. Accept the challenge and fulfill it.

WORD OF WISDOM

- 1. Friendship with your spouse is what you need to keep your relationship intimate and exciting.**
- 2. Love is a fire that is fueled by positive thoughts about the one you love. The stronger the thoughts the stronger the love.**
- 3. Negative thoughts about your spouse kills love and generate dislike and hatred, which will definitely kill your marriage.**
- 4. Focusing on the things you dislike in your spouse's life and his or her weaknesses, weaken love and trust and reduce the capacity to get along well and make the marriage crisis free.**
- 5. It takes faith to fall in love, and faith to keep the love alive and bubbling despite all the undesirables and despicable things you will see and experience.**
- 6. Keep faith alive for your marriage will be as you dreamed it will be if you don't give up, and keep working at it.**
- 7. Trust is not easy to build in a man's heart for another, but very easy to destroy. When destroyed, it is very difficult to rebuild. Never give your spouse the reason to distrust you and destroy the trust and confidence reposed on you.**
- 8. Successful marriage is not a gift but a working. There is no gift called successful marriage. Work hard on your marriage you will make it successful.**
- 9. Upholding your partner in prayers daily is one of the greatest acts of love you can ever show that has great reward for both of you and contributes more to the general happiness of both of you.**
- 10. As long as love is in your heart you can weather any storm in your marriage with your partner.**