

WHY THE FAMILY (PART 2)

WHERE IS THE FAMILY TODAY?

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The following passages reveal the marriage institution is special to God and must not be taken lightly or defiled. It also revealed that the devil has launched his most vicious attack on mankind, and the marriage institution is inclusive. As you read through these passages, consider the effect of Satan's attack on marriages and the children of these marriages and the multiplication effect of the evil in their lives on the society. Think about the society filled with all the evils listed in the 2 Tim 3:1-6. Things are getting worse by the day. Wickedness is increasing because the marriage institution is falling apart. Today, we have men marrying men, women marrying women. We even have gay preachers and bishops rising. The Church is under attack with immorality and corruption. The Church has recorded more divorces in the last ten years than in the history of the Church put together. Ministers of the gospel are not left out either. It is time for us all to rise up and defend the sacred institution called marriage.

2 Tim 3:1-6

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. 6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,

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The family is under attack and we must all rise up as people of God and save the marriage institution by making our own marriages work, and thereby, setting examples for others to follow. We have to give serious attention to spreading the gospel of good and happy marriages, first to the body of Christ, and to the whole world. All Christians should determine to practice the principles of God contained in the Bible for successful marriage and raising of godly children. Churches should give more attention to teachings on marriage and raising of godly children. Marriage ministers and ministries should be encouraged and giving opportunity to teach and minister in churches and fellowships to save and build strong marriages.

Titus 2:1-7

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

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Eph 5:21-30

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church- 30 for we are members of his body.

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Eph 6:1-6

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"- which is the first commandment with a promise- 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. 5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

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- a. The family is still under the attack of the devil in all areas of human existence.
- b. Devil's weapons of attack includes:
Pride of life, unforgiving spirit, violence, rape, mistrust, tension, suspicion, unbelief, quarrels, separation, divorce, polygamy, wrong company, pornography, immoral movies, lowering or lack of spiritual standard for various homes, etc.
- c. Carelessness over the family predicaments.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- a. Re-appraisal and re-ordering of the operations of our age long and very coveted "Extended Family System" as it affects the modern day marriage and home.
- b. Detailed planning and execution of family life development training programmes to keep the basic ideals of family life alive.
- c. Education of couples on the all-important subject of sexuality and family planning.

1 Cor 7:1-5

7:1 Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. 2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. 5 Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote

yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

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Read Proverbs 5

- d. Education of couples on what they should know or do in the areas of:
1. Inter-personal relationships in marriage.
 2. Money management and home economics.
 3. The act of effective communication.
 4. Spiritual life and the family.
 5. The two divine positions of the husband and wife – viz: Authority/Influence.
 6. The question of joint account.
 7. The place of customs and traditions and biblical concepts.
 8. God's principle of monogamy and permanence for successful family life.
 9. The question of adoption in the family.
 10. Raising of godly and disciplined children.
 11. Need for spiritual family counseling from time to time.
 12. The present neglect of the family matters by churches, organizations, groups, educationists, family units, and society in general should give way to a radical revolutionary attention by all concerned so that a new family order could emerge.
 13. The church, government and the society, stand to gain from such programmes eventually.

WORD OF WISDOM

1. **Who you did not submit to, you cannot obey.**
2. **The proof of love is obedience.**
3. **Love without obedience is fake.**
4. **Sincerity is a necessity in relationship.**
5. **Pointing the accusing finger does not solve problems, but compound and defer them.**
6. **A peaceful home is not just prayed down, but worked out.**
7. **Conquer self and the problems will disappear.**
8. **If you really love your spouse, do what will please him at all times.**
9. **Who to marry is not the first question to be asked and answered by a single, but am I prepared for marriage?**
10. **If you will channel your energy and effort at building and perfecting yourself, you will attract a quality partner.**