



God's Design for the Family

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Family

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:18-21

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Overview

As you read through the creation account in Genesis 1, you will see that God continues to look at His creation and declares that it is good. However, in chapter 2, on the sixth day of creation, God saw something was not good. The man He created was alone and without a wife, and for the first time in the creation account God said, “It is not good.” As God looked at the man He created He declared, “It is not good that the man should be alone” (Gen. 2:18).

After Adam was done naming the animals, God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and He made a woman from the rib of Adam. God “brought her to the man” (Gen. 2:22) and Adam named her Woman (Gen. 2:23). It was at this time that God instituted marriage and the family. In the next verse, Genesis 2:24, it says, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Jesus quoted this verse in Matthew 19:5 to show the sanctity and permanence of the marriage union. In Matthew 19:6, Jesus said, “So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

However, the family is under attack. Since the beginning of time, Satan has been hard at work trying to separate the family. Since the family is the fundamental building block of society ordained by God, one of Satan's greatest desires is to see the family crumble. According to a 2019 study, there are 750,000 divorces in the U.S. each year.¹ The divorce rate in the United States is one of the highest in the world. In the 1980's the divorce rate was 5.2 per 1,000 people, labeling that decade as “the age of divorce.” While the divorce rate from 2009 to 2019 declined, so did the marriage rate.² Cohabitation has risen over the years. According to a 2019 Pew Research article, “The share of U.S. adults who are currently married has declined modestly in recent decades, from 58% in 1995 to 53% in 2019. Over the same period, the share of adults who are living with an unmarried partner has risen from 3% to 7%.” Among young adults, ages 18–29, 78% say it is acceptable for an unmarried couple to live together, even if they don't plan on getting married.³

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/national-marriage-divorce-rates-00-20.pdf>. This excludes data from California, Hawaii, Indiana, Minnesota, and New Mexico.

² <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/12/united-states-marriage-and-divorce-rates-declined-last-10-years.html>

³ <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2019/11/06/marriage-and-cohabitation-in-the-u-s/>

Divorce and cohabitation are not the only attacks on the family. Since 1973, over 64 million babies have been murdered through abortions.⁴ The approval of homosexuality is on the rise and even celebrated with “pride” month every June in America. Government agencies have joined forces and are encouraging and celebrating homosexuality and transgenderism in America. Companies are showing commercials with families that consists of gay and lesbian couples with children. Postmodern ideology has attacked the traditional roles of men and women within the family and organizations have arisen seeking to dismantle the nuclear family. To put it plainly, the family is under attack!

As society continues to spiral out of control and the enemy continues to pursue his quest to eliminate the family, God teaches us in His word His design for the family. As Christians, we must take these truths and practice them in the home so that we will not only honor Christ, but also be a witness to the world of God’s perfect design for the family.

The Sanctity of Marriage

1. Genesis 2:24. What two commands does God give the man?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. What is the outcome of this union? _____
2. Matthew 19:5–6. Who brings a man and woman together in marriage? _____
 - a. Who is authorized to separate a marriage union? _____
3. Ephesians 5:31–32. What does the marriage union picture? _____
4. Hebrews 13:4. What is to be held in honor by all people? _____
 - a. Who will God judge? _____
5. Malachi 2:10–16. For what two reasons did God not accept the worship of Israel?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

⁴ <https://nrlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/StatusofAbortion2026.pdf>

The Spirit-Filled Life

1. Ephesians 5:18. What does Paul tell us not to do? _____
 - a. What does Paul tell us to do? _____
2. Ephesians 5:19–21. What are the four characteristics of a Spirit-filled life?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
3. Colossians 3:16–17. What does the Spirit-filled life look like? _____

“Building our families God’s way should be a matter of great concern to us. All other ways are destined ultimately to fail. After all, marriage and family are God’s idea. He originated these relationships. He planned them to be among the greatest blessings a person could have.”

—Wayne A. Mack

Application

1. Are you standing for the truth regarding marriage and the family in society?
2. Are you living a Spirit-filled life?