

WHAT'S A FAMILY FOR?

FAMILY MATTERS: Part 1

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³ *Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?"*

⁴ *"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' ⁵ And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' ⁶ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."*

Matthew 19:3–6 (NLT)

BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE:

A biblical marriage is the covenantal union of one man with one woman for life.

BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF A CHRISTIAN FAMILY:

A Christian family is when a husband and wife commit to build their home on God's principles and priorities.

*"It takes wisdom to have a good family, and it takes understanding to make it strong."
(Proverbs 24:3, NCV)*

GOD'S GOALS

1. PARTNERSHIP

"The LORD God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him." (Genesis 2:18, CEV)

2. PROCREATION

"God blessed them and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master..." (Genesis 1:28, NCV)

3. PROTECTION

"Reverence for God gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security." (Proverbs 14:26, The Living Bible)

4. PARENTING

"Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents and obeyed them...[He] grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people." (Luke 2:51-52, CEV/NLT)

The Four Aspects of Christian Parenting

- Instruction Deut 6:6-7, Isa 38:19
- Discipline Pr 13:24
- Training Pr 22:6, Eph 6:4
- Modeling 2 Chron 26:3-4

FAMILY ROLES (Eph 5:21-6:4)

1. HUSBAND / FATHER

*“Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it”
(Ephesians 5:25, NCV)*

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4, NLT)

Husbands are called to **LEAD** with love and **PROVIDE** for the home.

2. WIFE / MOTHER

“A wife should put her husband first, as she does the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:22, CEV)

“[Older women] will teach young women to show love to their husbands and children, to use good judgment, and to be morally pure. Also, tell them to teach young women to be homemakers, to be kind, and to place themselves under their husbands’ authority. Then no one can speak evil of God’s word.” (Titus 2:4–5, GW)

Wives are called to **RESPECT** their husband and **SERVE** their family.

3. CHILDREN

*“Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise:”
(Ephesians 6:1–2, NLT)*

Children are called to **HONOR** and **OBEY**.

PROBLEM: *There are no **MODEL FAMILIES** in the Bible.*

PRINCIPLE: *We commit to the IDEAL while we work with the REAL.*

ACTION STEP
CLASS 101