

"God's Plan for and Satan's Attacks on Your Family"

- * Family is a **divine** institution
- * God's **plan** in general for creation is for men and women to marry and **have children**.

I. The **DEFINITION** of Family

1. The biblical **ideal** of a family consists of one man and one woman **united** by **marriage** to become "one flesh" for a lifetime and to nurture children whom they **raise** to **adulthood**.
2. These parents are to **train up** their children in the **nurture** and **admonition** of the **Lord** so that their children in turn will **repeat** the divine **pattern** by following God's blue print by the grace of God going forward.
3. The word "family" is also used in a wider sense to include close **relatives** such as grandparents and grandchildren, uncles, aunts and cousins. In other cultures, family means the **extended** family, often living under one roof

II. The **IMPORTANCE** of the Family

1. The family is the **foundational institution** of **society** ordained by God.
2. Biblical families are **crucial** to ensure anything added to our culture is **good** and **true**.

III. The **PURPOSES** for Family

1. We were created in Christ Jesus to fulfill God's **purpose** for our lives and thus **glorify** His name forever
2. The purpose of the family is to **provide** the physical, emotional, social, security, and spiritual **needs** of its members so that they can **grow** to be **spiritually mature** adults who are **productive** and **useful** for the Savior and His work in the earth.

IV. The **PRACTICE** of Family (Ephesians 6:1-4)

1. Ideally, children are to be **filled** with the Spirit in order to **obey** and **honor** their **parents** in a way that **pleases** both their parents and God
2. Honoring your father and mother is being **respectful** in word and action and having an inward attitude of **esteem** for their position.
3. The **instruction** to parent children is given to **fathers**
4. Fathers (parents) are not to **provoke** their children to **anger**

5. Parents are to **bring up** their children in the **nurture** and **admonition** of the Lord
6. The overall goal: your children are to be brought to **spiritual** and **human maturity** so that they would be growing in love for God and for others as they grow in the grace and knowledge of the Savior.
7. Parenting is about conveying a Biblically based **principled relationship** with their Savior that results in heart felt **service** to Christ

V. The **ATTACKS** on Family

1. Regarding the **Design** for family:
 - a. By working through society to **ignore** or **actively oppose** God's design
 - b. By causing **division** in the marriage relationship
2. Regarding the **Purpose** of family:
 - a. God didn't create the family to be **self-serving, self-reliant** bubbles of people. Just like your marriage is not the end all - be all, neither is your family ---God created families to be a vehicle to **advance** the **gospel** and impact society through the church!
 - b. The goal is not to **isolate** your children from the rest of the world. You are to teach them how to navigate the world as a light in the darkness by **equipping** them to fulfill the good works God left them here to do including witnessing for Him
3. Regarding the **Practice** of Family (Deuteronomy 6:4-25)
 - a. Be **occupied** with **temporal** matters
 - * To raise up godly children, you are to **love** God fervently and reverently and **teach** your children diligently the principles of the Word of God
 - * The home is where the Word of God is **taught** and preserved, and where sound **doctrine** is **explained** and lived out.
 - b. **Exasperate** your children

*How does this apply to you?