

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024

Series Title: God's Plan for the Family

Lesson Title: God's Design for the Family

Key Scriptures: Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:18-24

God's Design for the Family

Families. We all have one, whether it's a biological family or an adopted family.

Many sociologists, philosophers, and unscrupulous people have tried to redefine the family and minimize what our Lord Jesus taught about family. Our culture as a whole is not just becoming more accepting of a new definition of family but is aggressively pushing this redefinition as good, healthy and enlightened. But this is a trick of the enemy! Rejecting God's original design is not good, healthy or enlightened.

God's Design – Male and Female

Right at the beginning, God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness . . . **male** and **female** he created them" (Genesis 1:26–27). According to these verses, the biological difference between men and women – our biological sex – is God's design.

Genesis 1:31

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

If God, who is all-knowing, all-wise, and perfect in all His ways, said His creation plan was good, then any deviation from His original design would be man exalting themselves above God. And, we see where that got Adam and Eve...out of the garden and into a world of sin and dysfunction.

The Attack of the Enemy

The enemy's strategy is to destroy the very plan of God for the family. In the world we are living in, the term family was once defined as a unit comprised of a husband, wife, and children – however, in today's culture that is no longer the case. And, it is ever-changing.

Our culture is increasingly trying to redefine family to be whatever people want it to be. TV shows (even kids' programs), commercials, and other pop culture mediums often portray families as made up of **two fathers** or **two mothers**.

A recent example is a series of commercials made by Tylenol that show how "the definition of family is now expanding and blossoming, so it's not this rigid, fixed picture of what the family is," according to the Washington Post. One of these commercials features a blended lesbian family. This depiction goes completely against God's original design for the family and for marriage, which was designed to be between one man and one woman for life (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5).

The enemy aims to destroy the family unit because he understands the power of the family to accomplish greater things for the Kingdom. The enemy knows that if the family becomes spiritually weak, it will impact the family dynamic and ultimately the church's effectiveness for a greater reach for the Kingdom of God – because the church is only as strong as the family.

Gender Identity

Man and woman were created for God's glory. Presently there are many mixed-up ideas regarding gender identity. Some people are trying to figure out if they are male or female or even something other than male or female. They believe they may have been given a faulty identity. Then they enter uncharted waters to figure out how to adapt to their feelings or fantasies.

Let me clear things up for you. According to the Word of God, there are only two genders – **male** and **female** – and they complement each other. In Genesis 2:24, the bible says “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” The male and female genders were designed for a spiritual purpose of uniting together in marriage. Even from a biological standpoint, a man and woman’s body is designed differently by God for the purpose of physical strength and procreation. Ultimately, male and female were designed by God for His glory and to fulfill His Kingdom purpose.

Our gender identity should always follow our biological sex. God only acknowledges two gender identities: male and female. There’s no indication that our gender identity should differ from our biological sex at all.

As a Christian, we affirm that our gender is who we are biologically according to God’s created design. This is our true gender, who we are according to God. We cannot become whatever we want to be, because our gender is given by God and connected to our Kingdom purpose.

Cross-Dressing

Deuteronomy 22:5 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 deals with the issue of cross-dressing / transvestism (men dressing in women’s clothing and vice versa). In this passage God commands that a woman is not to wear that which pertains to a man and a man is not to wear that which pertains to a woman, for all that do so are an “abomination.” The Hebrew word translated “abomination” means "a disgusting thing, abominable in the ethical sense of wickedness."

When people cross-dress, they are in rebellion against God and His order.

Raising Children

The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it".

Many families today are in deep trouble because they have not been “diligently teaching” their children. Instead, they have left it to the schools, media, museums, national parks, and others to do the job. We’ve often heard, “I’m not going to shove the Bible down my kids’ throats. When they are old enough, they can decide for themselves.” The problem is, these parents forget that while they are not teaching their kids the Bible, the world is shoving its evolutionary, humanistic, atheistic, or New Age religion down their throats.

It might sound nice to raise kids “neutrally,” but it’s impossible to do. While these parents may think they are doing the best for their children, and that their children will be able to objectively look at all their options and choose for themselves when they are older, they are leaving them defenseless against the anti-God teaching of our modern-day society. No parent would just let kids “discover for themselves” the dangers of running into a busy street. They would teach, warn, and even discipline their children in order to protect them. In like manner, we need to prepare them to face the challenges of the day by teaching the truth and exposing the lies of a society that has turned its back on God.

Our Youth Ministry and teachers are giving everything to the families at church, but the design is that you be the main teacher of your own children.

There are 168 hours in a week. If your children come to Sunday School (1 hour), 9:00 am Service (1 hour), 11:30 am Service (1.5 hours) and Word Wednesday Bible Teaching (1.5 hours), that is approximately 5 hours a week they are in church. With that being said, there is a vast difference in the amount of time the church has with your children and the time you have with your children. That’s why it is crucial for you to carry out your God-given assignment as a family and train the next generation of Kingdom leaders.

Family Legacy - Family Monday

Family Monday is not simply helpful or beneficial, but necessary and essential to building strong families who know whose they are and who they are in Christ. It involves taking a few moments of the day together as

a family to worship, read the Bible, pray and teach the Word of God. This practice invites the Lord to work in the hearts of the parents and children, to ensure that the Christian faith is passed to the next generation within our homes.

Conclusion

God's design for the family is very clear:

- Male (if you were biologically born as a male, you are a male)
- Female (if you were biologically born as a female, you are a female)
- If you are married it consists of one Male married to one Female

We need to wholeheartedly embrace the teachings of Jesus Christ concerning God's design for the family so that we can have the blessed life that God intended for us to have and fulfill our Kingdom assignment on the earth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Lesson: God's Design for the Family

God's Design for the Family

1. **True or False** - Rejecting God's original design for the family is good, healthy and enlightened.

God's Design – Male and Female

2. **Fill in the blanks** – In Genesis 1:26-27, God said, "Let us make _____ in our image, in our likeness . . . _____ and _____ he created them."
3. **True or False** - The biological difference between men and women – our biological sex – is God's design.
4. **Circle the Correct Answer** - If God, who is all-knowing, all-wise, and perfect in all His ways, said His creation plan was good, then any deviation from His original design would be man...
 - a. Doing what's best
 - b. Exalting themselves above God
 - c. Going in the right direction
 - d. None of the above

Attack of the Enemy

5. **True or False** - The enemy's strategy is to destroy the very plan of God for the family.
6. **Fill in the Blanks** – God's design for the family and for marriage is to be between one _____ and one _____ for life.
7. **Select the Correct Answers** – The enemy aims to destroy the family unit because he understands that:

- a. Families have power to accomplish greater things for the Kingdom of God
- b. A spiritually weak family will not be effective in helping their church reach souls for the Kingdom of God
- c. The church is only as strong as the family
- d. All of the above

Gender Identity

- 8. Fill in the Blanks** – According to the Word of God, there are only two genders - _____ and _____ - and they compliment each other.

Cross-Dressing

- 9. True or False** – When people cross-dress, they are in rebellion against God and His order.

Raising Children

- 10. Write out the scripture Proverbs 22:6**

Family Monday

- 11. Circle the Correct Answer** – When parents don't take an active role in teaching, training and raising their children in Christ, they leave them defenseless against:
- a. The anti-God teaching of our modern-day society
 - b. Cotton Candy
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. None of the above

12. True or False – Family Monday is not simply helpful or beneficial, but necessary and essential to building strong families who know whose they are and who they are in Christ.