

“The Home – A Holy Institution!”

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-25

Intro. – Present day statistics are reporting that half of all marriages in the USA are ending or will end in divorce. Child and spousal abuse are making their way into the headlines more and more. A stable home life is the exception and certainly not the rule. The prevailing thought today is that marriage/home are things of the past, useless encumbrances, ancient history. Is this true?!

Zig Ziglar made the following observation: “The evidence is convincing that the better our relationships are at home, the more effective we are in our careers. If we’re having difficulty with a loved one, that difficulty will be translated into reduced performance on the job. In studying the millionaires in America (U.S. News and World Report), a picture of the “typical” millionaire is an individual who has worked eight to ten hours a day for thirty years and is still married to his or her high school or college sweetheart. A New York executive search firm, in a study of 1,365 corporate vice presidents, discovered that 87% were still married to their one and only spouse and that 92% were raised in two-parent families. The evidence is overwhelming that the family is the strength and foundation of society. Strengthen your family ties and you’ll enhance your opportunity to succeed.”

Sociologist and historian Carle Zimmerman, in his 1947 book Family and Civilization, recorded his keen observations as he compared the disintegration of various cultures with the parallel decline of family life in those cultures. Eight specific patterns of domestic behavior typified the downward spiral of each culture Zimmerman studied.

- *Marriage loses its sacredness...is frequently broken by divorce.
- *Traditional meaning of the marriage/marriage ceremony is lost.
 - *Feminist movements abound.
- *Increased public disrespect for parents and authority in general.
- *Acceleration of juvenile delinquency, promiscuity, and rebellion.
- *Refusal of people with traditional marriages to accept family responsibilities.
- *Growing desire for and acceptance of unfaithfulness (adultery).
- *Increasing interest in and spread of sexual perversions and sex-related crimes.

(Swindoll, The Quest For Character, Multnomah, p. 90.)

Recently a Canadian newspaper received the following letter from one of its readers: “I read with trepidation that the Church of England is omitting the word ‘obey’ from the marriage service in their new prayer book. May I ask if this new church law is retroactive?”

Helen Rowland, quoted by Robert Keeler in a Reader’s Digest said, “Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning handsprings or eating with chopsticks. It looks easy until you try it.”

Yes, marriage takes effort, a lot of effort. Make no mistake about it, but, to suggest marriage is outdated, ancient history or a useless encumbrance is to ignore truth.

Purpose: to better see the home is a holy institution

The home/marriage is God designed and God sustained. It is through the home/marriage that family is realized. Our world, however, is doing its best to make marriage/home a thing of the past.

I A Holy BEGINNING

- man is obsessed with his own abilities... It will be helpful to look marriage’s beginning:
 - A. Creation of Man
 - 1. After or “in” the image of God
 - a. personal, rational, moral (feel, think, will)
 - b. distinguished as most important of God’s creation
 - 2. Purpose = fellowship and to have faithful children... Note: many don’t know why they are here...
 - B. Creation of Woman
 - 1. After or “in” the image of God (same as man) personal, relational, moral = bone of man
 - 2. Man and woman have much in common (human beings) but definite distinction too

C. Creation as a Whole

1. Man and woman (Adam and Eve) had relationship with the rest of creation
2. Hebrews 2:5-8 “...*You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet. In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.*”

Summary: with creation of man and woman came beginning of home. No institution on earth has a longer history than that of the home for it dates back to the beginning. God viewed this and saw that it was *very good*. Thus, the home had a holy beginning...

II A Holy PLAN (2:24)

home = man + woman married, living productive lives... X said 1 man + 1 woman (Mt 19)

A. Leave

1. Not abandonment of parents... just no longer depending on parents for basic human needs...
2. Calls for parental understanding in upbringing – apron strings must be cut ... this goes both ways...if mate not ready leave parents and vice versa problems are inevitable...

B. Cleave

1. Hebrew word = “joining” (glue)
2. Nothing between the two when “glued” together – they function as ONE
3. Responsibilities = function as one under the roles given by God
 - a. parent – child relationship is temporary in the sense of rearing...
 - b. marriage – permanent in the sense of vowing until death...
4. Physical union of two person... also the unity of purpose and goals as a married couple

C. Become One Flesh

1. Becoming a working team – each accepting and working within their God given role...
2. Same goal... same purpose... all in accordance to God’s holy plan!

III A Holy PURPOSE

- there’s a real purpose (reason) = holy in that it is in direct accordance to God’s plan...

A. Companionship (2:18)

1. Man/woman are social beings by creation - i.e. created with the need for companionship
2. Adam surrounded by animals but not his own – “...*it is not good that man should be alone.*” –
3. Stability and security are results of this physical/psychological needs being met.

B. Continuation

1. Home is necessary to populate the earth...
2. Act consummating marriage is good and holy... all according to God’s plan...
3. Passing the faith along – real purpose and privilege of family – Be all that we should be!
 - a. not only continue human race – we pass the faith along to continue knowledge of Him!
 - b. teaching the family about Christ and His Church... raising up faithful followers of His
 - c. resulting in family fruits – joy, peace, hope and promise!!

Thus, it is through the family/home that man is to find the richest fulfillment and blessing from God

Conclusion: There is no doubt that the breakdown of our society is in direct correlation with the breakdown of the home in that society. The home appears to be under attack by three main foes:

- 1) MATERIALISM – get ahead of the Jones...resulting in little or no home life... Money can buy a house but it sure can’t buy a home! Money/things become object of one’s allegiance...
- 2) LACK OF COMMITMENT – to Christ and His church – homes are simply not concentrating on Christ and His church – i.e. putting Him above everyone and everything else... flows over into family..

3) WORLDLY PLEASURES – Edward Gibbon *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* = primary cause of the Roman Empire they were filled with desire for worldly pleasure to the neglect of the home...

Man is unstable without the influence of God's divine institution – the home. How can a society be secure if its homes are not? The home is absolutely essential. Without it there is no hope.

The year of the family – this is important stuff. This is necessary stuff. I pray this year will be a blessing to you, yours and to this church family.

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Marriage is neither heaven nor hell; it is simply purgatory.
[A. Lincoln.](#)