

God's Standard In Family Relationships

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Scripture Reference: Proverbs 16:25 Isaiah 59:19 Romans 8:28
Ephesians 5:22-33 Ephesians 6:1-4 Proverbs 31 Matthew 16:26

Last week we began our study on God's standards and began with His standard in the area of healing. Today we are going to look at His standard in the area of family relationships. Next week we will talk about God's standard in our relationship with Him.

As I said in the last article we live in a world today that is turned upside down. Right is wrong and wrong is right. [Proverbs 16:25](#) says, *There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof is the ways of death.* You have to be careful and not be deceived into thinking that the standard of the world is acceptable to God – it is not,

It says in [Isaiah 59:19](#), *So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.* God has a standard that is different from the world. The world says, get whatever you can, anyway you can. God's standard says in [Matthew 16:26](#), *“For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”*

God's standard is a safety standard – when we adhere to it it puts us in a place of safety, but many people try to walk the fence of compromise.

They have one foot dangling in the world and when they fall they cry out to God, “Why did you let this happen?” God didn’t let it happen, we did by accepting the world’s standard rather than God’s. I’m not saying nothing bad ever happens to godly people; of course it does we are in a war with the devil but when we are living in the safety of God’s standard we are able to live in the realm of [Romans 8:28](#), “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

The standard the Lord has established for the family is designed to make our families healthy and strong, but if we choose the world’s standard we become more vulnerable to succumbing to the enemies standard and his reward and believe me you won’t like his reward. We are walking in turbulent times but as we learn to walk in the standard that the Lord has established in His Word we will overcome.

Many people will agree that one of the areas of our life with the most potential for pain is the area of relationships. I don’t know of anyone who does not have a least one painful relationship in their life. It used to be years ago that relationships within families were some of the most solid and harmonious. But that is not necessarily true today. We see families all the time that are falling apart and are spiritually unhealthy. There are many reasons this is true but one of the main reasons is that many families are out of God’s order. To everything in the universe there is an order in which they were designed to function and when that order is broken it does not work with the excellence in which it was designed.

God designed the family to be one man and one woman married and committed to each other with children to be a natural occurrence of that relationship. Children are offspring – or are to spring off of that relationship. In many families today the kids are running the family rather than the parents. In so many families the relationships are so out of order God can’t do much to bless them. You have to remember God is always trying to work with you, trying to find ways to bless you. When we live and function under God’s standard He has no trouble blessing us. [Ephesians 5:22-33](#) and [6:1-4](#), and [Proverbs 31](#), gives us a picture of God’s standard

of the relationships between a husband and wife and between a parent and their children.

The number one relationship in the family is to be the relationship between the husband and wife. In Ephesians where we just read it paints a picture of a husband that loves his wife in such a way that he would never hurt her but would love and protect her like Jesus does His church. It also paints a picture of a woman who respects her husband and is completely committed to him and submitted to him because she knows she can trust him.

Proverbs 31 paints a picture of a wife who is her husband's greatest supporter – a woman who always speaks well of him and encourages him. It also portrays her as industrious and ever mindful of things she can do to benefit the family. Children learn to be submissive and obedient to God by the example they see at home. If we let our children run the family (everything revolving around them) we not only do them a disservice but our home is out of God's order. Children need to be loved, nurtured; taught to respect, be responsible and obedient and need to know that they are secure. One of the greatest gifts parents can give their children is the knowledge that the parents have great love and commitment to each other.

I am always amazed at the number of Christians who think that it is OK to live together or have children without being married. If you are living with someone or having sex with someone and you are not married to them God will not bless you – you have bought into the deception of the world's standard. Get out of that relationship now, today and repent. Not only is it a relationship that God cannot bless but it is a relationship that can cause you to go to hell.

In a perfect world all Christian families would look like the families portrayed in Ephesians chapter 5 and 6 but the enemy has been at war against the family for decades and many families are broken and torn. Modern culture, TV, etc., have down-played the need of a father in the family. Much of the time social media portrays the mother as one who is super-human she doesn't need anyone's help – doesn't need a husband and can do anything by herself. The same media portrays the father as not having much value. Why do you think that is? I'll tell you why – It's

because the devil knows that if he can take the father out of the family he has a better shot at destroying it. The family is to be a training ground for our children to become godly adults. When children grow up with a godly father who is in submission to God and loves his wife and takes care of the family and a godly woman who is in submission to God and respects her husband and honors and submits to him you have an example that will teach children how to submit their lives to God and to trust Him.

I read a statistic the other day from Heritage.org that reported the following: 70% of juveniles in state reform schools, 72% of adolescent murders and 60% of rapist have this one fact in common – they grew up in fatherless homes. Fathers matter – and they matter greatly. I am convinced that when a child does not have a loving father it is harder for them to trust God the Father. When you have trust and abandonment issues in your relationship with your physical father it makes it so much more difficult to trust that God will not abandon or reject you. It makes it more difficult to relate to Him.

So what do you do – first of all you commit your family to God. If there is no mother in the family let the Holy Spirit and Jesus fill up that need, let them nurture and provide the things a mother would. If there is no father, let God become the father. When I was a child growing up my mother was married and widowed twice and in the process had eleven children. As a child I wanted a father desperately. I so wanted to know what it was like to have a father's love. When I was 3-4, I was laying under the pew in a church service one night. To this day I still remember the sermon that was being preached. The man preaching was talking about God being a father to us. I wanted a father so badly I told God I wanted Him to be my father. I did what the minister told people to do and asked Jesus into my heart and was born again.

God did become my father that day in ways that most people never know him. Throughout my childhood and teenage years God would speak to me and help me understand things that a father would teach his daughter. He talked to me about relationships and how to be a godly woman, a godly wife.

Don't settle for less than God's standard in your relationships. Treat people the way He wants you to treat them. Don't let others establish a worldly standard in your relationship. Those of you who are single remember the most important relationship you will ever have other than your relationship with the Lord is with the person you marry.

Don't be in a hurry to marry. Make sure the person you pick is God's pick for you. My husband married me because the Lord said to him, "Don't be afraid, this is the woman I have chosen for you." We have a wonderful marriage that is very rewarding and fulfilling. Our relationship reflects our relationship with the Lord because it is established on God's standard. No matter where your marriage is today you can have a wonderful marriage if you are willing to make changes.

If you are already married and things are not good then I can tell you how to change it. Pray, not those three minute prayers that people tend to pray but give yourself to prayer. Go somewhere private and pray and continue to pray everyday, intercede, get passionate about it. Fast over the situation, make it a priority. If it is important to you you will pray until the situation changes. When a person prays with passion and intensity or as the bible says "fervency" it applies so much pressure on the situation that it will change. Prayer pushes back the darkness and allows the plan of God to manifest.

If your home is out of order and your kids are running the family – change it, put it in order. Husbands and wives if your relationship with each other is not based on the standard God has established in His word then repent to God – repent to each other and make a commitment to let God's standard be your standard. One of the things that you will find happening in your relationship is that you will fall more in love with each other than you ever have before. God will bless what he has established.

You were bought with a price, you belong to the King of Kings. Don't settle for the world's standard or the world's reward. Let your family be a reflection of the love that Jesus has for His Church.

If you did not read last week's article on God's standard in healing I would suggest you go online and read it in the teaching letter archive. I would also recommend that you order the CD set, "The Power of Relationship" by JP Timmons.