

“A BIBLICAL STANDARD FOR THE FAMILY”

GENESIS 1:24-31

“Standard,” according to Webster’s is “something established by authority, custom, or general consent as a model or example: CRITERION.” In the Bible the term standard often refers to “ a rallying point for groups with a common interest.” Applied to the family, it refers to those measuring rods by which we are to order our domestic lives.”

Consider three foundational reference points in answer to the question: What is God’s standard for the family?

I. The ORIGIN of the family.

(Where did the idea of family come from? -God, not man!)

- A. God created THE EARTH OUT OF NOTHING. (Gen. 1:1)
- B. God created THE MAN OUT OF THE EARTH. (Gen. 2:7)
- C. God created THE WOMAN OUT OF THE MAN. (Gen. 2:21-22a)
- D. God created THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE FOR A MAN AND A WOMAN. (Gen. 2:22b-24)

II. The NATURE of the family.

(What is the ideal family like, from a biblical perspective?)

- A. God ordained the MAN AS THE HEAD OF THE WOMAN. (Gen. 3:16b)
- B. God ordained the WOMAN AS THE COUNTERPART OF THE MAN. (Gen. 2:18-20)
- C. God ordained the CHILDREN SHOULD COME FROM THE UNION OF HUSBAND AND WIFE. (Gen. 1:27-28)

III. The AUTHORITY of the family.

- A. GOD’S HOLY WORD is His INFALLIBLE AUTHORITY for the family. (Psalm 19:7,9,11)
- B. GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT is His INTERPRETIVE AUTHORITY for the family. (John 14:26;16:13)

Thus, God’s standard for a Christian family is ONE MAN + ONE WOMAN + ONE OR MORE CHILDREN WHO LIVE TOGETHER UNDER GOD’S AUTHORITY.