

# Family Matters



## Things To Think About:

- Our family is the most influential factor in our life.
- We are mainly a product of our home.
- We personally play a key role in our family's dynamic.
- There is no perfect family. Every family has room to improve.

Rate your family life. - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 +

Take An Honest Self Evaluation: What is missing that could make it better?

## What Has Happened To The Traditional Family?

Mark 3:25 "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand."

### Compare: 1900's (how things were)

- Home central to identity as family
- One home/stability/permanence
- Simple lifestyle/free time
- Worked around the home
- Paid cash
- Kids support family
- Large families
- Dad worked/Mom at home
- Dad head of home
- Meals together/cooking/baking
- Marriage lifelong commitment
- Little media/talked together
- Focused on people

### New Millennium (how things are)

- Temporary pit stop/identity elsewhere
- Move constantly/instability
- Busy/Calendar full/Constant stress
- Gardener/pool man/neglect
- Debt/financial strain
- Kids liability
- 1.5 children average
- Both parents work/latchkey kids
- Dad absent/passive
- Fast food/microwave
- 50% Divorce rate/Single parent homes
- Constant media/little conversation
- Focus on things

### Attack From Without:

- Social, moral, & spiritual decline
- Re-definition of marriage/family/masculinity/femininity/family roles
- Abortion/sterilization

### Attack From Within:

- Divorce/single parent homes/Infidelity
- Abdication of roles (teachers, coaches, youth pastor, youth staff, grandparents)
- Usurpation (state -v- parental rights/socialism)
- Parents working/parental absence/permissiveness/Child-centered homes
- Family life dominated by media and entertainment

## What Are The Effects Of These Things On The Family Overall?

- Anger, bitterness
- Distrust
- Insensitivity
- Neglect
- Broken families
- Self-centeredness
- Destructive behavior
- Apathy/Indifference
- Lavish/focus on things
- Broken promises
- Misunderstanding
- Depression/Loneliness
- Over-protectiveness
- Lack role models
- Little communication

## Where Is The Church In This?

### A Serious Concern:

- Teenagers from Christian families seem dishonoring, disobedient, uninterested in spiritual things, secularized by the prevailing culture. High percentage of high school graduates walk away from the church. Why? What was missing? Who failed whom? How can seemingly good parents raise bad kids?
- Current View - "Life is fatalistic because of the overwhelming influence of the secular culture in which we live!" Is there any hope to truly survive the teen years and raise godly children? "just a matter of time" "your day is coming" "rebellion is guaranteed"
- The early years are crucial in developing a Biblical plan to parenting! Proverbs 22:6 "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

### Biblical Family Failures:

Romans 15:4 "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope."

1 Corinthians 10:1,6,11 "For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact... that our forefathers... now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did... These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us..."

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1 Samuel 8:3 - What happened to Samuel's kids? Samuel - prophet "but his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice."

2 Kings 18:5-7; 21:6; 2 Chronicles 31, 33 - What happened to Hezekiah's son Manasseh? Hezekiah - "There was no one like him... he held fast to the LORD... and kept the commands... The LORD was with him... He was successful..." Manasseh

(a teenage king) – He followed the detestable practices of the nations... worshiped the stars... sacrificed his son in the fire, practiced sorcery, and did much evil in the eyes of the LORD provoking him to anger.”

- 2 Kings 23:25, 32; 2 Chronicles 34-36 -What happened to Josiah’s sons Jehoahaz/ Jehoiakim? Josiah – “Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did with all his heart... in accordance with all the Law of Moses.” Jehoahaz – did evil in the sight of the LORD (reigned only 3 months)
- 2 Chronicles 17:3,4; 2 Kings 8:16-18 - Jehoshaphat’s son Jehoram? Jehoshaphat - sought the Lord, obedient, followed David’s example; Jehoram – did evil in the sight of the Lord.
- 2 Chronicles 27,28 - What happened to Jotham’s son Ahaz? Jotham – did what was right in God’s sight; Ahaz – followed detestable ways of the nations the LORD had driven out...”
- What was missing or didn’t get passed on?

## Biblical Realities Of Fractured Families:

- Cain’s murder of Abel (Genesis 4)
- Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac (Genesis 16:2)
- Lot’s incest with daughters (Genesis 19:36)
- Isaac and his sons – Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:23; 27)
- Jacob, Rachel, Leah (Genesis 29; 30) (less favored wife; polygamous families)
- Joseph – sibling rivalry (Genesis 37)
- David’s sin of adultery and murder effected his family (2 Samuel 12:7-20)  
death of child, rape, murder, refusal to forgive, conspiracy
- Jesus - Joseph never is mentioned after his early life. (Jn. 6:42; Mk. 6:3; Jn. 19:26,27)
- Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5 “grandmother Lois, mother Eunice, and Timothy”)

## The Question Of Responsibility:

- Where does the blame lay? Whose fault is it?
- The consequences of sin or righteousness is passed on. Present generations suffer or are blessed for past generations sin or righteous lives. My sinful choices/righteous choices will effect my family and generations to come.
  1. Original sin (Romans 5:12,19; Isaiah 43:26,27)
  2. Generational sin (Exodus 20:6; Leviticus 26:39-41; Jeremiah 16:10-12; Psalms 79:8; 1 Peter 1:18 “the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers.”)
  3. Individual sin (Ezekiel 18:14,18-20,30,31)  
Galatians 6:7-9 “Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked. As man reaps

what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

- God's desire is that we respond to Truth with repentance and life change.  
Galatians 4:16 "Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?"  
John 8:32 "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free."  
Daniel 9:4-18

## What Is The Solution To This Crisis Of The Family?

It begins with Regeneration!

"Only when individuals in our society turn to Christ will society itself and the family specifically experience any significant transformation."  
2 Corinthians 5:17 "If anyone be in Christ he is a new creation."

## Rejecting A Secular Mindset For Biblical Thinking On Parenting

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than Christ."

Proverbs 23:7 "As a man thinks in his heart, so he is."

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to discern and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Psalms 139:23,24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts, and see if there is any wicked way in me; and lead me in the way everlasting."

Luke 10:27 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind..."

1 Corinthians 2:16 "But we have the mind of Christ."

2 Peter 1:3 "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

Psalms 78:3-8

Joshua 24:14,15

**\*\*Sow a thought, reap an act. Sow an act, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. A person who thinks righteously will tend to act righteously. One's thought life greatly determines one's behavior.**