

Family - The Building Blocks

Text : **Genesis 2: 18-25** and **Ephesians 5: 22-32**

S#1.

A. It's commonly agreed that we have significant problems in our society today **S#2.**

1. People feel no moral restraint. Sexual norms have been tossed out the window.
 - a. People don't hesitate to have sex with anyone they desire at the moment.
 - b. Perversions are now acceptable. Perverts even marry each other in public.
2. It's common for people unashamedly to put self above all else.
 - a. Dishonesty is increasingly acceptable if it profits self ... *"Gaming the system"*
 - b. People don't hesitate to better themselves at the expense / to detriment of others.
3. Parents don't teach it so people feel no respect for authority at any level.
 - a. Failure to respect teachers makes education very difficult.
 - b. Failure to respect authority makes it difficult to maintain civility in society.
4. People feel entitled to have what they want without earning it.
 - a. Young people don't work in school so they fall behind and eventually drop out.
 - b. Having no skills they're unemployable, but want to be given by the government.

B. These ungodly attitudes are having terrible repercussions in our country. **S#3.**

1. Increasing numbers of children are being murdered before birth. (**1.3 mil yearly**)
2. The permanent "underclass" is increasing beyond our ability to support them.
3. These attitudes are causing increasing discontent, division and unrest.
 - a. The achievers are becoming increasingly resentful of supporting the lazy.
 - b. Those who don't have resent the continued success of the achievers.
4. Discontent is beginning to be expressed in violence and riots.

C. Why is all of this happening now ? **S#4.**

1. Human nature has not changed since the beginning of recorded history.
 - a. Cain killed Abel because of jealousy. He wanted what he did not deserve.
 - b. According to Plato, more than 400 years before Christ Socrates wrote :
The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers.
 - c. Interestingly, this was written during the time of the decline of Greece.

2. The vast majority of our social issues in America and in the American church can be directly linked to only a couple of core problems both of which are related :
 - a. The drifting away from God which has resulted in
 - b. The deterioration of the family unit.

D. The family is the building block of all societies.

S#5.

1. This fact was recognized by the puritans who settled this country.
Richard Baxter (1615-1691) (called "*the chief of English Protestant Schoolmen*")
 We must have a special eye upon families, to see that they are well ordered.
 The welfare and glory of both the Church and the State, depend much on family government and duty. If we suffer the neglect of this, we shall undo all. Therefore, if you desire reformation, do all you can to promote family religion.
2. In 1865 William Ross Wallace wrote a poem that is often quoted :
"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." (**Often quoted because true.**)
3. Even a former pope (John Paul II) recognized this to be true: (*In Perth, Australia*)
*"As the family goes, so goes the nation and
 so goes the whole world in which we live."*

E. The family is our today as well as our tomorrow .. source of next generation.

S#6.

1. American families are not producing enough offspring to sustain population.
2. We are not training the few children that we do produce.

Because the deterioration of the family is one of the most serious issues facing us today, we'll take a few moments to notice some things about it.

I. The family is God's plan for faithful men to perpetuate the species.

S#7.

A. God formed the first family.

S#8.

1. God determined it was not good for man to be alone.
Genesis 2: 18 – **Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."**
2. Why was it not good for man to be alone ? Man has a God-given task to perform.
Genesis 1: 28 – **God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it;**

S#10.

B. Each generation was instructed to form families.

S#11.

1. **Gen. 2: 24** – **For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**
2. There comes a time when every bird must leave the nest.
3. Parents should be there for their grown children, but not try to dominate them.

S#12.

C. Families are for the purpose of producing offspring.**S#13.**

1. Children are a blessing from God.

Psalm 127:3-5 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. **4** Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. **5** How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate. **S#14.**

2. God directly commands that women bear children.

I Tim. 5: 14 – Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach; **S#15.**

II. The family is God's plan for faithful men to perpetuate godliness.**S#16.****A. When God gave His law to His nation, He instructed parents to teach.****S#17.**

1. **Deut 6: 5-7** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. **S#18.**

2. Notice the progression :

- a. Love the Lord God
- b. Internalize His word
- c. Teach it to your children

B. When God established His eternal kingdom He renewed that requirement.**S#19.**

1. **Eph. 6: 4** – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. **S#20.**
2. Timothy is an example of how God's system is supposed to work. (**Jesus @ 12**)
II Tim. 3: 15 – ... from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- a. It was the responsibility of the father to teach him, but father was a Greek. **Ax 16:1**
- b. Timothy's Mother and Grandmother taught him ... **II Tim. 1: 5**
(*Grand parents have a ministry with the young .. teach .. teach .. teach.*) **S#21.**

- * 3. Christians are not responsible for the result, but we are responsible for the effort.

Prov. 22: 6 – Train up a child in the way he should go, **S#22.**
Even when he is old he will not depart from it. (**Basic value learned**)

S#23.

C. The children of very righteous men can grow up to be wicked if not taught.

1. **Eli** was a righteous prophet, but his sons were not trained to follow him.

S#24.

I Sam. 2: 12 – Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the Lord

2. **Samuel** was a righteous judge and prophet, but his sons were corrupt.

S#25.

I Sam. 8: 1, 3 And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. ... **3** His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.

3. *Faith must be taught ... it can't be caught.*

S#26.

- a. Just living in a Christian home will not make children Christian.

* *Setting in a chicken house won't make one a chicken.*

- b. **Rom. 10: 17** – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

S#27.

D. An ungodly response to world events caused Americans to abandon God's way.

1. The great depression followed by a world war changed the way people thought.

- a. It made "the greatest generation" tough and fiercely independent.

- b. It made them hard working and determined to make a better future.

2. However, it also had some very negative effects.

- a. They developed the attitude of the ancient people of Babbble ... NEVER AGAIN.

- b. The thrust of their life was in building a secure future for themselves & family.

- c. Women were no longer contented to be homemakers ... they wanted to earn \$.

3. The traditional family became largely a thing of the past.

- a. Children were allowed to grow up like weeds ... undisciplined and unsupervised.

- b. Life was centered around things. (*Every holiday .. love is expressed by things*)

- c. Children began picking up their values out of the home and from TV.

4. Now each new generation expects to begin where their parents ended up.

- a. Sacrifice and hard work to achieve is very much a thing of the past.

- b. Each new generation has a different set of values from their parents.

5. The absence of traditional values is adversely affecting the church.

- a. The common attitude is to seek out a church that offers services and entertainment.

- b. It's now common for people to look for a church that conforms to their beliefs.

- c. Many don't want a church that requires anything of them. (*A sml minority does.*)

* **6. Thus,** families are the building blocks that produce long-term strength for the church.

III. The family is God's plan for faithful men to secure the future.**S#28.****A. Maintaining the family structure determined Israel's ability to survive.****S#29.**

1. The fifth command is often referred to as the "bridge commandment."
 - a. The first four are about loving God.
 - b. The last five are about loving one's neighbors.
 - c. God uses the family to communicate love between the two.
2. **Exod. 20: 12** – **Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.**
 - a. Only command which gives a specific consequence ... "**promise**" **Eph. 6:1-3**
 - b. The survival of their nation depended upon it ... ***prolong days in land.***

S#30.**B. The deterioration of the family will bring doom to a nation or a church.**

1. British historian J.D. Unwin who studied the fall of great nations, wrote : Nations most often fall from within, and this fall is usually due to a decline in the moral and spiritual values in the family. As families go, so goes a nation.
2. The church is only as strong as the families of which it is composed.
 - a. When families do not function properly, children leave the church when they leave their parent's home.
 - b. When families do not function properly, children marry outside the church and go to the religion of their new mate or just stop going to church.

S#31.**S#32.****C. The failure of the family is at the heart of America's most serious problems.**

1. More and more couples are refusing to form family units. Cohabiting for the now.
2. According to the "National Fatherhood Institute" **40%** of children in the U.S. have not seen their father in at least a year.
3. In 2014 there were **17.4** million fatherless children in this country.
 - a. **25%** of all children in this country are completely fatherless (**3,500 aborted daily**)
 - b. Growing trend - In 2014 .. **40%** of all births were to unwed mothers. .. **80% of blks**
 - c. **71%** of children who drop out of school are fatherless. ***They will stay in poverty.***
4. The overwhelming majority of violent crimes are committed by single parent people.
 - a. **60%** of the rapes
 - b. **72%** of adolescent murders
 - c. **70%** of long-term prisoners come from single parent homes.
- * 5. ***Is it any wonder we have riots in the streets of our cities.***

D. The deterioration of the family is affecting all of us in many ways.**S#33.**

1. It should be a cause of great concern to the nation and to the church.
2. With such a high percentage of children affected, it affects society at large.
3. Anything that affects society will affect the church, our children, and our grandkids

CONCLUSION :**S#34.****A. This a great and a growing problem which may contribute to the fall of America.****S#35.****B. Families failing to function as God instructed have robbed us of young people.**

1. The family must be the primary educational institution that our children attend.
2. We must repent of our worldly values and reorient our lives toward God. **FAITH**

Matt. 6: 31-34 Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' **32** For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34** So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. **Trust God To Provide.**

S#37.**C. What is our goal for our children and our grandchildren ? What are you doing ?**

1. What percentage of their training goes toward there temporary job on this earth.
2. Our goal should be that they will know how to prosper in their eternal home.

S#38.**D. Chances are ... you and I are here because of the influence of godly parents.**

1. Let us commit to being the godly influence on the next generation.
2. **TODAY ...** let us honor and thank the godly mothers who instilled values in us.
3. Children are not born with faith. **You were prepared to accept the gospel.**

Prov. 22: 6 – Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

*** Take time today to thank the one who prepared you.**

INVITATION :**S#39.****A. If you have not accepted and obeyed the gospel, you have the opportunity.****S#40.****B. If you were trained up in the way and obeyed the gospel but drifted away, why not renew your commitment today.**

Lesson Text :**Genesis 2: 18-25**

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." **19** Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. **21** So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. **22** The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. **23** The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." **24** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. **25** And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Ephesians 5: 22-32

22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. **24** But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, **26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; **29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, **30** because we are members of His body.

31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. **33** Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.