

# The Importance of the Family

## Points to Consider

1. The Family is Built on Commitment
2. Society's Evil Influence
3. Overcoming the Evil Influence

## The Family is Built on Commitment

**Gen 2:21-24** *And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam 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 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* NKJV

The first family came with a \_\_\_\_\_. The cost for Adam was a rib.  
Adam understood that the cost he paid for Eve led to him being \_\_\_\_\_ to her.

**Matt 19:4-6** *And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, '**For this reason** a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."* NKJV

Jesus confirmed that it was God's plan for every family to start with a \_\_\_\_\_ commitment between a man and a woman.

**Gen 1:27-28** *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."* NKJV

God's plan to fill the earth is fulfilled when married couples make a commitment to have and \_\_\_\_\_ children.

Commitment in a family is so important to God that He made \_\_\_\_\_ the only relationship where sex is acceptable.

**Eph 6:4** *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.* NKJV

The most important responsibility we have regarding our kids is to teach them about \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ex 20:12** *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.* NKJV

God expects children to be committed to \_\_\_\_\_ their parents.  
This includes providing for them when they are older.

**1 Tim 5:3-4, 8** *Honor widows who are really widows. 4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God. ... 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.* NKJV

God expects us to be committed to taking care of the financial needs of our parents and \_\_\_\_\_.  
The family is God's plan to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of its members.

## Society's Evil Influence

- 25 percent of those born 1997-2013 are likely not going to get married.
- The share of adults who are married has been steadily declining for decades. In 2013, just half of Americans were married, down from 57% in 2000. In 1960, 72% of U.S. adults were married.
- In 2013, four-in-ten new marriages included at least one partner who had been married before, and two-in-ten new marriages were between people who had both previously walked down the aisle.
- The divorce rate is double what it was in 1960
- In 1970 89% of all births were to a married couple. Today only 60% are.
- Nearly 50% of all people live together before they get married. In 1960 virtually no one did.

### How?

**Gen 4:19-22** *Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. 20 And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. 22 And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.* NKJV

Lamech was the first man mentioned in the Bible that had \_\_\_\_\_ wives.

**Matt 19:8-10** *He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." 10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."* NKJV

The Jews wanted \_\_\_\_\_ -fault divorce.

### Today

1. Society teaches us that marriage is no longer the \_\_\_\_\_ relationship where our sexual desires can be fulfilled.

- a. The first birth control pills came out in 1960. For the first time in history a woman was in \_\_\_\_\_ of her fertility.
  - b. She could now have sex without consequences. Remember, Satan has been trying to convince us that there are no consequences for sin since the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. In 1973, we legalized abortion. Now, whatever pregnancy that wasn't avoided can be terminated.
  - d. Truth - Satan does not have the power to mitigate the consequences of sin!
  - e. Out-of-wedlock births rose from 5.3 % in 1960 to 40% in 2014.
  - f. In 1960 there were 4,257,850 births in America in 2007 there were 4,316,233 in America.
  - g. The world's population in 1960 was 3 billion. The world's population in 2011 was 7 billion.
2. Divorce is too easy.
  3. People don't think and talk about marriage as being a \_\_\_\_\_ from God.
  4. Some refer to marriage as "a ball and chain." Others say marriage is outdated and needs to change. Still others say that marriage should be different with expectations clearly laid out before saying "I do." Some think they have a better plan than God. I read one article in which the author, a therapist, concluded that God's design for marriage is out-dated. Fidelity in marriage was only possible when the life expectancy after marriage was only 10-15 years.
  5. Our culture teaches that being dependent on your spouse shows weakness. Women have been taught that they don't need husbands to be fulfilled. Men think they can be sexually fulfilled outside God's institution of marriage.

## Overcoming the Evil Influence

### Consider the benefits of Marriage

- Children raised in intact families have, on average, higher academic achievement, better emotional health, and fewer behavioral problems.
- Fathers of intact families spend, on average, more time with their children.
- Teens who frequently have dinner with their families are at a lower risk of substance abuse.
- Adolescents from intact families are less likely to become sexually active.
- Children raised in intact families by happily married parents tend to be more religious in adulthood.
- Children raised in intact families are more likely to have stable and healthy romantic relationships as adults.
- Intact families are more likely to provide a safe home for children.
- Married mothers tend to create a better home environment for their infants.
- Married mothers are less likely to experience abuse and violence.
- Married fathers tend to have better psychological well-being.
- *familyfacts.org. Copies provided upon request.*

We need to communicate the value of God's plan for marriage to our kids and grandkids. I've turned the "I appreciate board" into "Marriage is good board"

## God's Plan is the Best Plan!