

January, 2003 Series of Study

INTRODUCTION: The following is a preview of the next three months of Sunday bible studies:

- During the month of January, we will study "The Family"
- During the month of February, we will study "Marriage"
- During the month of March, we will study "Spiritual Gifts"

During the month of January, we will study the following three lessons on the FAMILY.

1. Origin of the Family
2. Parent's responsibility to Children
3. Children's responsibility to Parents

Lesson #1

Origin of The Family

Today's lesson will study SIX aspects of the ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY.

1. God established the Family as the third divine institution (DI) of creation (Gen. 4:1-2).

- DI #1: Freedom (One Individual) Gen. 1:26-27; 1 Cor 11:7; James 3:9
- DI #2: Marriage (Two Individuals) Gen. 2:18-25; Eph 5:28-30
- DI #3: Family (Three or more) Gen. 4:1-2; Eph 6:1-3
- DI #4: Nation (Collectively) Gen. 10:32; 1 Tim 2:1-4

These four divine institutions govern communal society in the devil's world (1 John 5:19)

Satan attacks all four divine institutions through evil thinking (1 John 3:12; Rev 20:8)

2. The uniqueness of the human family is that mankind is made in the image - likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-28)

Other forms of creation have families but none are equal to mankind (James 3:7-9)

In God's perfect design, DI #3, Family would be a natural product of DI #1 (Freedom) becoming DI #2 (Marriage).

However, note the order that is given in Eph 5:31, which is quoting Gen. 2:24: "For this reason man will leave his father and mother and will be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."
(DI #3 to DI #1 into DI #2 and then into DI #3)

3. God designed the family with laws of divine establishment, for both parent and child.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Prov 22:7 NIV)

Over the next three weeks we will be studying the laws of divine establishment #3 (Family), discovering that they also extend to the grandparents. (1 Tim 5:4-8; Eph 6:1-4)

These laws, of DI #3 are designed to give stability and continuity within the family unit.
(Prov 19:20; 1 Thess 2:11-12)

**4. Families operating under God's laws of divine establishment provide the basis for a civil society.
(1 Pet 2:13-18; Psa 112:1-3)**

Most of us would agree that much of our communal social problems are directly related to the decline of the infrastructure of DI #2 and DI #3.

It was the family that was given the first commandment - with a divine promise.
(Eph 6:1-3; Deut 5:16; Ex 20:12)

"Honor your father and mother - which is the first commandment with a promise - that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

QUESTION:

- Should Christian parents sacrifice their personal happiness for the sake of their child's wellbeing?
- Why do you think Christian parents are not willing to suffer, in the name of Christ for the sake of their children? (Read Matt 15:1-9; 18:1-6)

**5. The fall of Adam resulted in a mother's curse associated with children beginning with birth.
(Gen. 3:116; John 16:21)**

"A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world." (John 16:21)

Mary, the mother of Jesus, could not escape this mother's curse: "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed - and a sword will pierce even your own soul, to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." (Lk 2:34)

**6. God decreed that the parent should be the divinely delegated authority of the family (DI #3).
(Col 3:20; 1 Cor 11:3) Note the chain of command.**

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases The Lord." (Col 3:20)

Parents are held accountable for the training of their children. Christian parents are also responsible for the evangelism and spiritual training of their children. (2 Tim 3:15)

Cycling Bible Doctrine, through the Faith Rest Technique, by each member results in unity and harmony of the family. The failure of this principle leads to all sorts of family tragedies. This is the story of the first family, of Adam and Eve - and two of their sons, Cain and Abel. (Gen. 4)