

Family

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The moral decay of our society is readily evident every time you open the newspaper or watch the evening news. Every day thousands of children are experiencing trials that no child should ever endure. The deterioration of the family is one of the first indicators of a depraved and fallen society. When a mother weighs her options of abortion to carrying a baby, we live in a fallen society. When husbands and wives divorce one another over frivolous reasons, we live in a fallen society. When children are being abandoned and left to raise themselves, we live in a fallen society. Therefore, the greatest need in our society today is Christian families exhibiting God's design for the home and family.

God, in all of His infinite wisdom and power, saw fit to institute the home from the foundation of His creation. It was God who said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). He caused a deep sleep to overcome Adam and made from his rib, woman. When Adam awoke and the woman was brought to him, he 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" (Genesis 2:23). Moses gives the critical commentary concerning marriage - "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Marriage between a man and woman institutes a new home or two distinct individuals becoming one. The success of this home is directly depended upon their willingness to maintain and submit to the roles ordained by God.

The husband has been prescribed by God to be the leader in the home. He is to tenderly love his wife, as Christ loves His church, and be willing to sacrifice

everything for her (Ephesians 5:25-27). The husband is to provide for his own and care for not only their physical health, but more importantly the spiritual well-being of the home (1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Peter 3:7). The wife is to humbly submit to her husband's leadership and love him for his direction (Ephesians 5:22-24). Where the world cries that submission in marriage is antiquated and no longer needed,

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God decreed for these roles and their implementation in the home to be timeless. The very foundation of what is occurring in our society today is heavily influenced by its total disregard for God's roles in marriage and the home.

The role of children has also been reversed in many homes today. Where the children are commanded by God to be obedient to the parents, in our society, the parents seem to be obedient to the children (Ephesians 6:1). We have all witnessed situations where the child who pitches a fit will be rewarded instead of punished for his ill-behavior. The Bible and its instruction on child rearing is largely ignored and substituted with the more *updated* book by Dr. Spock and how parents should never say "NO!" Our culture wonders why the outcome of children raising themselves is so bad!

It is our duty, as Christians, to demonstrate God's design for the home and family in a world where it will be considered foreign. Christians are called to shine their lights in the darkness, giving direction to a fallen creation. The depth of this world's depravity has been revealed with the acceptance abortion. How long before other forms of child abuse and abandonment will be advocated for and accepted? The need for strong Christian families has never been more needed than in our times. The first institution ordained by God for mankind was the family. How well is His design being replicated in your home?