

FATHER'S DAY

Introduction: A recent census in our nation revealed that every kind of household, including single-parent families, domestic partner arrangements (living together but not married), and even same-sex unions increased **except** one: the traditional two-parent family.

The family was ordained by God from the beginning of Creation, before government and before the church. It is the cornerstone upon which all other societal institutions were to be built.

When we consider the present status of the traditional family, we shudder at what we see: divorce, domestic violence, teenage delinquency, child abuse, and the counterfeit domestic alternatives offered by our society.

What can be done? What is God's plan for the family?

I. GOD'S PLAN BEGINS WITH PREMARITAL ABSTINENCE

*"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication; that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor."
(1 Thess. 4:3-4)*

1. Our society approves, even encourages, sexual activity regardless of marital status. However God commands that there be no intimate sexual contact outside of marriage, and that it is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex within marriage.

II. GOD'S PLAN PROVIDES FOR ONENESS AND HAPPINESS

"And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man, 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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.'" (Gen. 2:22-24)

1. Today, the biblical definition of marriage is criticized as being too narrow and too old fashioned.
2. God's plan has proven over and over to be the most beneficial for men, women, and children. It is the best environment for raising happy, healthy children. When parents rear their children as a married couple staying together as a traditional family unit, their children will be healthier and shielded from the hurts of divorce and have the benefits of a permanent family unit living, loving, and growing up together.

III. GOD'S PLAN TRAINS CHILDREN

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (Deu. 6:6,7)

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
(Prov. 22:6)*

"And, ye fathers; provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4)

1. This is called **family worship** and it is God's plan that the **Father** be the spiritual leader of the family.
 - Consider Abraham, the father of the faithful and the friend of God:
 - He instructed his children and servants in the "way of the Lord."
 - He also prayed with his family and servants, and wherever he pitched his tents, he built an altar unto the Lord.
 - Consider Joshua and his determination when he said" *"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* (24:15)
 - Neither his exalted position, nor the pressing duties forced upon him were allowed to crowd out his attention to the spiritual well-being of his family.
 - Consider David when he brought the Ark of God back to Jerusalem with joy and thanksgiving.
 - After discharging his public duties, he immediately returned to his family to "bless" them.
2. Those who worship idols today gather as a family and worship false gods with the father leading them.
3. Fathers, **you are the head of your household in the eyes of God**. You are responsible and accountable to God for the spiritual well-being of your family.
 - Nothing must be allowed to interfere with your duty of gathering your family together daily and giving thanks for God's mercies, to seek His help and blessing.
4. "A family without prayer is like a house without a roof."
 - Excuses for not leading your family in worship are idle and worthless. What shall you do when you stand before God and give an account, saying you had not time to lead your family in worship or that you were not qualified for such a thing or offering this or that as an excuse?
5. Fathers, you must lead your family in worship reverently, earnestly, and simply. It is then that your little ones will receive their first impressions and form their initial conceptions of the Lord God - **from you!**
6. It is impossible to list all the advantages and blessings of Father-led family worship. However some of the most obvious things will be: prevention of much sin in later life - conveys a sense of God's majesty and authority - sets God's truths before the mind - not to mention the image your children will have of you.

CONCLUSION:

1. How much of the dreadful moral and spiritual conditions of our society today can be traced back to the neglect of men and women not following God's plan for a family and for the father neglecting his duty to lead his family in worship of God?
2. Dad, won't you dedicate yourself this morning to fulfilling your God-given duty to your family?