**Topic: The Doctrine of Family**

**Worldview Brief: #230**

**Objective**: Properly understand the Biblical purpose and design of the family.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **Genesis 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. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
* [**Exodus 20:12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+20%3A12&version=ESV): “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”
* [**Proverbs 22:6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+22%3A6&version=ESV): “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
* **John 13:34-35**: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
* **Matthew 19:4-5**: “He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Genesis 2:24 (One man and one woman in marriage go from being two, to one)

# Colossians 3:20 (Children are to obey their parents because it pleases God)

# Ephesians 5:21 (Husbands are commanded to love; wives are commanded to respect)

# Ephesians 5:25 (Family relationships should show the love and commitment of God)

# Acts 10:2 (God is honored when families serve and follow His commandments)

# Ephesians 2:19 (Those who follow Christ are part of the household or family of God)

**Summary Statement**: Families were created by God to provide relationship, community, and a stable environment for children to grow and learn right and wrong. Families should seek to honor and glorify God together, and Christians need to understand the value of God’s family.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. Marriage is a life-long commitment and covenant between man and women.
2. Marriage is the beginning of family and the foundation for children.
3. The role of parents is to disciple, discipline, care for, and love their children.
4. Children have the responsibility to obey and submit to their parents.
5. Families should seek to work together to grow, serve, and glorify God.
6. The family of God should be a close-knit group of believers serving God.

The Six Key Points Regarding: The Doctrine of Family

1. **Marriage is a life-long commitment and covenant between man and women.**

**Brief Explanation**: Marriage was designed by God as revealed in Genesis 1:27-28 as male and female (Matthew 19:4-5) with a complementing nature between male and female that bring a type of completeness and oneness (two become one) which reflects God’s Triune nature of three and one. God intends for the marital relationship to be life-long (Genesis 2:24) because two have become one, and God desires commitment as the foundation of marriage.

1. **Marriage is the beginning of family and the foundation for children.**

**Brief Explanation:** Families can exist without two parents, but a single-family household is not the ideal situation. It’s not to say a single mom or dad can’t honor God and effectively raise their children, but God desires for a stable household where both father and mother invest, love, and discipline their children. Husbands and wives should build their marriage and create a healthy household. Husbands love their wives, and wives respect your husbands (Eph 5:21).

1. **The role of parents is to disciple, discipline, care for, and love their children.**

**Brief Explanation:** In the Bible, parents are not called to be best friends with their children, but a role model, authority figure, mentor, and guide. Parents are to care-for and love their children, but their role is to prepare their children and teach them to follow Christ (Proverbs 22:6) and fear God above all else.

1. **Children have the responsibility to obey and submit to their parents.**

**Brief Explanation:** God is a God of order and desires for authority, structure, and restraints be placed on the evil nature and desires of mankind. One purpose of the family, as it relates to children, is to bring discipline and authority into a child’s life. Parents are to restrain the sin nature of their children and teach them what is right. Children are commanded repeatedly in the Bible to obey their parents and not defy God’s ordained structure (Ex. 20:12, Col. 3:20).

1. **Families should seek to work together to grow, serve, and glorify God.**

**Brief Explanation:** God desires for all things to bring Him glory. Marriage should point people towards God as they demonstrate love and commitment like God, parents should point children to God, and families should work together to build God’s kingdom (Acts 10:2).

1. **The family of God should be a close-knit group of believers serving God.**

**Brief Explanation:** Another family spoken of throughout the Bible is the family of God. God’s family should be a priority, we should love each other (Ephesians 2:19) and value the spiritual family of God higher than any family on earth (although worldly family is still important).