

Why Strong Families are Important Ben Moseley

It is clear from the beginning of scripture that God designed the home. It is one of God's institutional foundations. The Bible affirms God's plan, which was established universally for all times, even in our modern culture (Matt. 19:8-9).

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 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. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (Gen 2:21-25).

This was God's plan from the beginning and He has not changed it. Who can improve upon God's perfect plan for the home? How could anybody dare to tamper with it? Of course, we are all aware that in the last forty or so years, there has been a gradual assault on God's original intention for the home. But in reality, the hope of our nation requires well-ordered homes. The hope of America is found in the sanctity of the home. Family life is an indicator of how strong and stable any nation is. When family life breaks down, the nation will eventually collapse. The author Gibbons stated that one of the reasons Rome fell was a rapid increase of divorce and an undermining of the sanctity of the home. There is a growing contempt toward the traditional family, and it is directed against what the Bible teaches about it. Thus, we see the root of the problem, which is a rejection of the Bible teaching on this subject. I grew up watching *Ozzie and Harriet* and *Leave It To Beaver*, which represented a traditional biblical view of the family. We are told that these home styles are a relic of the past. We are told in a scornful way that it is a non-realistic standard for today's home. Dr. James Dobson and Gary L. Bauer were correct when they said, "along with sneering references to Norman Rockwell's America, the cultural elite frequently reminds us that the model of the traditional family-homemaker mother and breadwinner father is virtually extinct, and they are obviously glad it is gone".¹ Today, in our politically correct nation, we are told that we should accept same sex marriages and homosexuality. The biblical home is being destroyed.

What can the righteous do (Ps. 11:3)? The answer to this question lies in another divine institution, the church. There is only so much we can do politically. We can try to vote into political office men or women who have a respect for God, but that is becoming a diminishing number. Those of us who still believe in a traditional home must lend an influence for the benefit of the church. It is important that homes in the Lord's church awaken to our responsibilities. How can the home lend its influence to the profit of the church? Brother Wendell Winkler had some good suggestions that I would like to mention:

- By instilling wholesome basic attitudes toward authority
- By teaching and practicing disciple

¹ Dr. James Dobson and Gary L. Bauer, *Children at Risk: The Battle for the Hearts and Minds of Our Kids* (Dallas, Texas: Word Publishing, 1990), 110.

- By establishing and maintaining the proper priorities
- By developing the proper attitudes toward those who fill special capacities in the Lord's church
- By developing a love and respect for the local church
- By cultivating an appreciation for worship
- By establishing high moral standards
- By motivating and training our children for service in the kingdom of God²

We are facing the same situation today that the early church had to face. They lived under an empire in decline, and we live under a government in decline. As the disciples in Acts 4:29 stated, may we always obey God rather than man when there is a conflict between man's law and God's law.

² Wendell Winkler, *If the Foundations Be Destroyed, What Can the Righteous Do?* Florida School of Preaching Lectureship (Pulaski, Tennessee: Sain Publications, 1997), 73-84.