

Family: God's Invention

Textual Idea: God created families for mankind to experience love in its deepest meaning.

Homiletical Idea: To experience success in the family relationship family members must be committed to follow God's Word and to make each other happy.

Intro: Developing a healthy family is among the most challenging tasks human beings can undertake. Even when people are intentional about having healthy relationships in their families, it is still challenging because we all have our limitations. However, there is hope for today's families. Things can get better. Our children can grow up and become positive and vibrant human beings. Our marriages can experience renewal as we embrace God's purpose in creating families. Hopefully, we will find biblical tools that can transform all our relationships from tolerable to magnificent.

1. Family was God's plan for the human race from the very beginning of times.

- a. Genesis 2:18 – Ideally God designed human beings to have a life-partner.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 7:26 – Paul stated that it is good to remain single because of the “present distress” that the apostolic church was going through in the first century.
- b. Genesis 2:24 – God instituted the marriage relationship in the Garden of Eden during the creation week.
- c. Genesis 1:27, 28 – God requested the first married couple to multiply.
- d. Matthew 19:4, 5 – Jesus also embraced and pointed people to the book of Genesis as the bases for marriage.
 - i. He also believed in monogamy, “the two shall become one flesh.”

2. What is God's purpose for marriage?

- a. Genesis 1:27 – The primary purpose of marriage is to reproduce God's love for and in His people.

“The primary reason marriage is significant to God is because it is part of His ordained plan to **provide the world with a picture of His love for men and women**. Marriage becomes **the means for married couples to demonstrate their love for God**.” Pat Ennis and Lisa Tatlock, *Embracing God's Purpose for Marriage*.

“A well-disciplined, well-ordered family exerts a more powerful influence in favor of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached.” **E. G. White, *Signs of the Times*, December 11, 1901**

- b. Secondary reasons for marriage:
 - i. Companionship – Affection, love, and oneness of spirit.

- ii. Enjoyment – The physical and emotional relationship.
 - iii. Fruitfulness – The blessing of children.
 - iv. Protection – The husband protects and provides for the wife. The wife is to protect the home (Titus 2:4, 5), and parents together protect their children.
- c. When the secondary reasons for marriage become primary, then marriage becomes an idol.
3. The first union of the first couple in the Bible becomes an example for humanity. There were 5 steps taken in the Garden of Eden that work as a reference for the establishment of families:
- a. Genesis 2:7 – Choosing Christ.
 - b. Genesis 2:15 – Becoming self-supporting
 - c. Hebrews Psalm 8:4-6 – Receiving a life calling—a ministry—he was the steward of the planet.
 - d. Genesis 2:24 – Choosing a life companion. God chose for Adam.
 - i. The Bible says, “Man shall leave his father and mother.” This is not a counsel for Adam, but for the human family.
 - ii. There is a lot of wisdom in this counsel.
 - iii. You can only follow it if you can support yourself.
 - e. Genesis 4:1 – Having children.

Note: Usually people do exactly the opposite. They start with children, then they marry, then they find a job, and when things are really difficult they turn to God.

4. In the Bible we learn the following about marriage:

- a. God originated marriage
- b. Marriage is between two persons of different gender
- c. Marriage is a monogamy
- d. Marriage is between people of the same faith
 - i. Deuteronomy 7:3 – God told the Israelites not to marry with people of other nations when they entered into the Promised Land, because of their idolatry.
- e. Sex is within the marriage relationship
 - i. Deuteronomy 22:13-19 – Through laws God showed that He expects people to be virgins until their marriage.
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 7:2, 8, 9 – The New Testament Scriptures also supports sex only in the marriage relationship.

5. God’s ideal for marriage is a life-long commitment.

- a. Matthew 19:6 – “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”
- b. 1 Corinthians 7:39 – “A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”
- c. Malachi 2:16 – “For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce.”
 - i. Matthew 19:9 – Adultery is an exception for divorce.
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 7:15 – Another exception is when an unbelieving spouse deserts a believer.

6. When we marry we must be committed to make the relationship successful.

- a. 1 Corinthians 7:33 – “But **he** who is married cares about the things of the world—**how he may please his wife.**”
- b. 1 Corinthians 7:34 – “But **she** who is married cares about the things of the world—**how she may please her husband.**”
- c. Ephesians 5:33 – “Nevertheless let **each one of you** in particular so **love his own wife** as himself, and **let the wife see that she respects her husband.**”
- d. Ephesians 6:1, 4 – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right... Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger.”

“A family that is connected in a healthy way—spouses, parents, and children—are **intentional about managing conflict in a timely manner** and are **committed to being patient, kind, understanding, and forgiving.** While this kind of commitment is not easy, it is worthwhile and will contribute to the happiness, health, and quality of life of every family who puts it into practice.”

Willie & Elaine Oliver, *Hope for Today’s Families*, p. 15.

7. What are some intentional things that we can implement in our relationships in order to nurture it?

“We choose to **schedule fun times** together and to **find reasons to celebrate often** to keep our marriage and family a desirable place to be... Our children are grown and no longer live at home. However, every time we get a chance to be together, we spend time visiting and enjoying our family. Whether planning a game, sharing a favorite meal, visiting a museum, or going to church together, we are reminded that we belong to each other and are grateful to God for His goodness to us. When we are apart, we stay connected by keeping in touch on a regular basis. Of course, we can make this happen only by **thinking and planning for it.**” Willie & Elaine Oliver, *Hope for Today’s Families*, pp. 20, 21.

8. God desires us to bless us through the family relationship.

- a. That is only possible if we enter this relationship in the fear of God, willing to follow his directions:

“The family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred, of any on earth. It was designed to be a blessing to mankind. And it is a blessing wherever the marriage covenant is **entered into intelligently**, in **the fear of God**, and with due consideration for its **responsibilities**.” *Ministry of Healing, pp. 356, 357*

In closing, I’d like to challenge you to begin to pray together for 30 days as a couple that God will bless your marriage and children. That He will be the Builder of your home and that He will bring healing to your relationships. Ask Him for a miracle.