



Raising Godly Children: MARRIAGE

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-25 Matthew 19:1-9

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Marriage and families are under attack. This isn't anything new for most of us--it seems like each week we hear about some new attack.

- The latest are judicial rulings that redefine marriage to accommodate the homosexual agenda: you see that right now in California court system; currently there are seven states that allow same-sex unions
- Another place where you see it is in living together. The vast majority of people, even Christians, “live together” before getting married, even though it is directly against the 6th Commandment.
- A startling statistic that shows the disintegration of marriage and family is that 34% of fathers live apart from their children (<http://www.crosswalk.com/1213946>)
- Of course, Hollywood relentlessly bombards us with every and all kinds of sexual immorality
- Pornography is rampant --- and so easily available through the internet
- And now, Paul Jr. has split up from Paul Sr. on “American Chopper” ☺

What is happening to the family?! The list could go on and on--all these things either attack or erode marriages and families.

Today we are beginning a new series on Family, focusing especially on parenting by looking at what the Bible has to say about strong, Christ-centered marriages and solid, godly families.

Today we want to see that in order to have a solid, godly family, you have to first have a strong, Christ-centered marriage.

Marriage is Created by God. Marriage was created by God in paradise in the Garden of Eden even before the fall into sin. Even if the fall into sin never happened we would still have marriages and families. It is God's original plan.

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, ' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Genesis 2:22-24

As biblical Lutheran Christians, we confess that marriage is one man and one woman in a lifelong union. *It's almost unbelievable that we have to take time to say that*, but that is the kind of world that we live in now. **We believe that marriage is one man and one woman in a lifelong union.** This is God's plan from the creation of the world. Biblically, there is no such thing as "same-sex unions" or "gay-marriage". **In God's eyes, these are abominations.**

Marriage of one man and one woman is a fundamental, social institution, deeply rooted in all societies and cultures, which has been tested and reaffirmed for 6,000 years!

In marriage, husband and wife are to love and cherish, honor and support each other.

In marriage, husband and wife are to love and cherish, honor and support each other. **This union of one man and one woman in "marriage" is the core, basis and foundation of all families...and the most important thing in a solid, godly family.**

That the woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.

Matthew Henry Commentary, Genesis 2

The most important relationship in a family in raising godly children is not the relationship between the parents and the children, it's the relationship between the mother and the father.

Hannah: A Godly Mother by John MacArthur

Today if you are married, then your calling is to have the best marriage you can have.

- In marriage, God calls you to a lifelong commitment to your husband or your wife;
- In marriage, God calls you to forgive each other and to overlook each other's offenses;
- In marriage, God calls you to be loving and kind to your spouse, to be "long-tempered" with each other, and to be good, gentle and faithful to the other person
- In marriage, God calls you to protect and defend the other person
- In marriage, God calls you to guard your marriage at all costs from temptations and evil.

Today if you are married, then your calling is to have the best marriage you can have. It is a blessing from God's good hand to you. And it is the most important thing to a solid, godly family.

You have to work hard to protect your marriage. Take a look at this music video, a song called "Slow Fade" by a group called "Casting Crowns".

You have to work hard to protect your marriage. One of the lines in this song said, "Be careful little feet where you go; it's the [little feet behind you that are sure to follow](#)"

As you watch this video, and think about your marriage, maybe you realized how badly you have failed.

VIDEO: "Slow Fade" by Casting Crowns

- Maybe you have not invested in your husband or wife;
- maybe you have not worked hard on your marriage,
- maybe you have sinned against your wife or your husband.
- Maybe you have committed adultery, are caught up in pornography, or maybe you have emotionally deserted your spouse
- Maybe you have been a poor example for your children

Today repent of these things, confess them to God and know that He is gracious and merciful to you. He forgives you in Jesus' name! In Jesus Christ, God promises to forgive all your sins; including sins against your marriage; sins against your wife/husband, sins of adultery, pornography, apathy, neglect, or desertion. In Christ's forgiveness, you find renewal and restoration; you find new strength and new hope.

Christ's forgiveness makes your marriage a Christ-centered marriage. As He forgives you, you forgive each other.

With the Gospel of Jesus Christ motivating you, you CAN work hard to protect your marriage, and have a strong, healthy relationship with your husband or wife. Remember, your kids are watching!

- Your children learn about relationships from your marriage.
- They learn about love, commitment and forgiveness from what they see in you;
- they learn about sympathy, understanding and kindness.
- They learn about Christ-centered marriage, **or the lack of it**, from you.

Your children are nurtured, they feel safe and secure, and they learn about trust from your marriage.

Today, do everything you can to have a strong, healthy, Christ centered marriage! It is the best thing you can do to have a solid Christian family! AMEN!