

7. Why did God design the family?

God designed the family to reveal something about his nature. Marriage is designed to be an intimate relationship that communicates what Christ and his Church look like (Ephesians 5:22-33). A husband and wife who stand united in marriage reflect the divine image of God to the world. Scripture teaches that men and women are equal in their essence, but distinct in their function. This means they are equal in value as people, but distinct in their roles and responsibilities. This distinction is based on their gender. It is patterned after God who is equal in his essence as one God, but distinct in function as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For example, Jesus is not inferior to his Father in his divine essence, but he submits to his Father in everything (John 5:19). The authority, love, and honor within God is the basis of authority, love, and honor in the family (Ephesians 5:22-6:4; 1 Corinthians 11:1-3). The family is designed after the very nature of God to teach us about God.

God designed the family for dominion. God made the male (Adam) to lead, provide, and protect his family as the head (Genesis 2:1-20; Ephesians 5:23). Men are appointed by God to take their responsibility to lead their families with sacrificial love. God made the woman (Eve) to be the helper to the man. A woman is defined as one who was taken from a man, for her man (Genesis 2:21-23; 1 Corinthians 11:8-9). She is to help the man fulfill the dominion mandate (Genesis 2:18, 21-23). Only she can bear children. Her sphere of responsibility would be the home where she could bear children and manage the family (Titus 2:1-5; 1 Timothy 5:14). God designed humans as either male or female to fulfill these roles (Matthew 19:4-6). God's design enables families to take dominion. God ordained this so many would exist to bring him glory. To reject God's design for the family is to reject the Designer and his word (Titus 2:1-5).

God designed the family to be multigenerational. The family is designed to produce billions of worshippers, generations after generations who would worship God (Exodus 20:6; Psalm 78:1-8; Acts 2:39). "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." (Psalm 145:4) The devil knows this and wants to kill and destroy the seed of the woman. From the beginning there has been a multigenerational battle between the seed of the woman and the seed of the devil (Genesis 3:15). The call for the godly seed (offspring) is to see God's will and design for the family and protect its precious life. The Ten Commandments protect and secure this purpose (Exodus 20:1-17). New Testament discipleship builds on this example (Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Peter 3:1-7). "Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth." (Malachi 2:15) Guard yourself against the lies that undermine God's design for the family. In large measure, it establishes the future.

Bible passages to read: Genesis 2; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Psalm 78:1-8, 128

Questions to ponder:

1. How does the Christian home reveal the nature of God?
2. How are men and woman uniquely designed by God to take dominion?
3. Why is the multigenerational design of the family vital to understand?
4. Why does the devil hate the family? How is he destroying the family?

5. Do you embrace God's design for the family? How does this apply in your life?