"A Family's Structure – Who Makes Up a Family?"

Professor Rev. Maynard Koerner

Notes & Scripture

Introduction: The Basic Unit of Society Is the Family. It Is Natural That The Family Would Be The Place That Satan Would Attack. Sin Immediately Brought Suffering On The Family. In Fact, the Temptation to Sin Struck at the Heart of the Family Structure. By Seeking To Tempt Eve Instead Of Adam, The Family Was Attacked. As A Culture Becomes More And More Controlled By Satan, The Family As God Has Structured It Will Suffer The Effect.

1. **The Family As Presented In Scripture**
   i. Gen. 2:24; The Family Is One
   ii. Ex. 20:12 (Fifth Commandment); The Established Authority Structure
   iii. Ps. 78; The Means Of Continuing God's Covenant Blessings
   iv. Ps. 127; The Source For Happiness

A. As The Basic Unit Of Society
The Family Is the Basic Structure, Which Establishes The Direction of Society.

B. The Devastating Effects of Sin
We See Very Quickly In Scripture How Sin Affected The Family.
Murder, Polygamy, Adultery, Rape, Widows, Orphans

C. Recognizing Affected Structures
The Types of Families
i. The Two Parent Family
ii. The Childless Family
iii. The Single Parent Family
iv. The Blended Family (*Challenges Of Remarriage*)
v. The Interracial Family (*Challenges Of Culture*)
vi. The Family With Adult Children Living At Home Or Moved Back Home
vii. The Family With Only One Believing Parent
viii. The Empty Nesters

1. Due To A Fallen World
2. Resulting From Sinful Actions
3. Based In Sinful Structure

Notes & Scripture

II. The Roles Of The Members Of The Family

The Sinful Culture Has Greatly Influenced The Family By Means Of Confusing The Different Roles.

a. A Fellowship Unit

b. Headship/Provider,
   i. Gen. 2; I Cor. 11:3, 8-9; Eph. 5:25-33

c. Support
   i. Eph. 5:22-24; Prov. 31

d. Submission
   i. Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4

III. The Church's Responsibility In Regards To The Various Structures

By Means Of The Ministry Of The Church, This Blueprint Established By God Must Be Taught. The Church Cannot Assume That Its Members Know How To Function As A Family. The Church Also Has The Answer To Deal With The Broken Family.

A. Addressing The Problems
   i. The Church Needs To Clearly Teach Its Members How To Be A God Honoring Family.

B. Addressing The Needs
   i. The Church Has A Role To Fulfill In Families Who Have Been Affected By Sin.

C. Addressing The Culture
   i. The Church Needs to Clearly Bear Witness to the Unbelieving World in Regards to the God Established Structure of the Family.

No Doubt, We Face Problems Regarding the Family Today. The Church Needs To Be Ready To Address These Problems Perhaps More Than Ever Before. We Need To Begin By Understanding That The Church Has The Answer.

The Church Is Really Faced with Two Problems concerning The Biblical Structure of the Family.

First, It Must Do A Better Job Of Teaching Believers What That Structure Is And How It Can Be Maintained. What Is Most Important Is For Members To Understand The Benefits Maintaining The Biblical Structure.

Second, The Church Must Speak To The Culture With A Clear, Loud Voice In Making Known The Created Norms For This Basic Unit In Society.