

The Biblical Family

Introduction.

Strong families make strong churches. The family today is under assault and must be protected with a biblical worldview and the encouragement to live the Christian faith where it really counts—in our homes. In this section we want to empower and equip our families to be strong and withstand the relentless tides of erosion in today's society.

A. The definition of “family.”

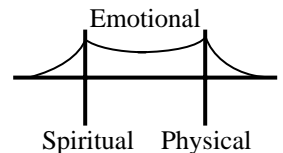
The most basic institute and governing body of society, comprised of a man and a woman who have consented before God, in holy matrimony, to love and to serve each other, as partners in life, for the rest of their lives, and to love and serve the children they bear, training them to grow into God-fearing, responsible adults.

B. The “purpose” of marriage.

Many people believe God created marriage to fulfill our happiness and make us complete. But God designed marriage for much more than that. Consider the following purposes of marriage—to make us holy, to teach us the truth about ourselves and about God, to teach us how to love and respect others, to foster a good prayer life, to expose our sin, to build the spiritual discipline of perseverance, to teach us to embrace difficulty as a means toward building character, to teach us to forgive, to build in us a servant's heart, to provide [through marriage sexuality] spiritual insights and character development, to make us more aware of God's presence, and to develop our spiritual calling in God.

C. The “unity” of marriage.

The apostle Paul prayed for our whole spirit, soul, and body (*1 Thessalonians 5:23*). The implication is that we have been designed as a *tri-part* being. So for a husband and wife to enjoy the fullest benefits of “oneness” in their marriage, they must pursue unity in the areas of: 1) their spirituality—*spirit*, 2) their emotions—*soul*, and 3) their sexuality—*body*.



D. The biblical role of the husband and father.

1. To lead his family—by example—toward God (*1 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 4:12*).
2. To rule and manage his home through loving leadership (*1 Timothy 3:4-5; Ephesians 5:25*).
3. To lead by example with the heart of a servant (*Mark 10:42-45*).
4. To love his wife as Christ loved the church and laid down his life for her (*Ephesians 5:25*).
5. To love his wife as his own body (*Ephesians 5:28*).
6. To be considerate of his wife (*1 Peter 3:7*) and not treat her harshly (*Colossians 3:18*).
7. To live with his wife with understanding, giving her honor and respect (*1 Peter 3:7*).
8. To not embitter, exasperate, or provoke his children to anger through harshness or cruelty (*Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4*).
9. To bring up his children in the training [discipline] and instruction of the Lord (*Ephesians 6:4*).
10. To teach his children respect, self-control, and obedience through discipline (*Hebrews 12:7-11; Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13; 29:17; Ephesians 6:4; Revelation 3:19a*). *see addendum (#35)

E. The biblical role of the wife and mother.

1. To have a submissive attitude toward her husband who is the leader of the household (*1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22, 24; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1*).
2. To respect and honor her husband (*Ephesians 5:33*).
3. To love her husband and children (*Titus 2:4*).
4. *Proverbs 31:10-31* shows the character traits of a biblical wife and mother.

F. The biblical role of children.

1. To honor, obey, and respect their parents in the Lord (*Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20*).