

# WHY IS THE FAMILY SO IMPORTANT?

## INTRODUCTION

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- In our current society, there are different terms for families.
- Let's start by giving a *sociological definition* to what the purpose of the family is:
  - The primary function of the family is to ensure the continuation of society, both biologically through procreation, and socially through socialization. Given these functions, the nature of one's role in the family changes over time.<sup>1</sup>
- Nuclear family or Traditional family or Natural family:
  - The traditional definition of a nuclear family is a family unit that includes two married parents of opposite genders and their biological or adopted children living in the same residence.<sup>2</sup>
  - This basic pattern of relationships, starting with the marriage of a man and a woman and extending to their offspring, does form the nucleus of the larger extended family.
- Single parent family:
  - The single parent family consists of one parent raising one or more children on his own. This family may include a single mother with her children, a single dad with his kids, or a single person with their kids. The single parent family is the biggest change society has seen in terms of the changes in family structures. One in four children is born to a single mother.<sup>3</sup>
  - This is the fastest growing demographic in the United States. As the two parent household is rapidly declining, one parent households are becoming the norm.
  - These changes have been driven in part by the fact that Americans today are exiting marriage at higher rates than in the past. Now, about two-thirds (67%) of people younger than 50 who had ever married are still in their first marriage. In comparison, that share was 83% in 1960. And while among men about 76% of first marriages that began in the late 1980s were still intact 10 years later, fully 88% of marriages that began in the late 1950s lasted as long, according to analyses of Census Bureau data.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-sociology/chapter/family/#:~:text=The%20primary%20function%20of%20the%20family%20is%20to%20ensure%20the,the%20family%20changes%20over%20time>. 04/30/2021

<sup>2</sup> <https://family.lovetoknow.com/definition-nuclear-family> 04/30/2021

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/12/17/1-the-american-family-today/> 04/30/2021

- LGBTQ family unit (this is *not* a family by any rational definition):
  - The definition of a family has changed in recent years to accommodate this lifestyle. They cannot rely on what is called “heteronormative” definitions to define who they are.
    - “same-sex and hetero- sexual couples with or without children, regardless of marital status”<sup>5</sup>
  - This “family” unit cannot, and will never be able, fulfill the normal and natural functions of a family.
- Blended families:
  - According to the most recent data, 16% of children are living in what the Census Bureau terms “blended families” – a household with a stepparent, stepsibling or half-sibling. This share has remained stable since the early 1990s, when reliable data first became available.<sup>6</sup>
- ***There is no longer one dominant family form in the U.S. Parents today are raising their children against a backdrop of increasingly diverse and, for many, constantly evolving family forms.*** By contrast, in 1960, the height of the post-World War II baby boom, there was one dominant family form. At that time 73% of all children were living in a family with two married parents in their first marriage. By 1980, 61% of children were living in this type of family, and today less than half (46%) are. The declining share of children living in what is often deemed a “traditional” family has been largely supplanted by the rising shares of children living with single or cohabiting parents.<sup>7</sup>

## WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL FAMILY?<sup>8</sup>

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- ***The family is the foundational institution of society ordained by God.*** It is constituted by marriage and is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption.
- The only way that a family will reap the full rewards of God is if they hold to the Biblical model.
  - Biblical model does not mean man, woman and biological children **only**.
  - It is important to remember that God is sovereign in giving biological children to couples (though adoption is also at the heart of God’s plans, Eph. 1:5; Gal. 4:5-7), He is also sovereign over if your spouse and/or children pass away.
- While it is true to say that the Biblical model for a family is one man, one woman and their children, it certainly does not happen that way all of the time. Some of the circumstances which lead to this are out of our hands (death, adultery, etc.) and some are the effects of our sin (adultery, abusive, etc.).

<sup>5</sup> <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-lgbtq-studies/chapter/what-is-a-family/> 04/30/2021

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/12/17/1-the-american-family-today/> 04/30/2021

<sup>7</sup> [pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/12/17/1-the-american-family-today/](https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/12/17/1-the-american-family-today/) 04/30/2021

<sup>8</sup>

<https://www.eng.auburn.edu/~sjreeves/cm/family.html#:~:text=def%3A%20The%20family%20is%20the,25%2C%202%20Kings%2013%3A23> 05/04/2021

## **The Biblical family is a fundamental institution foundational in society**

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- Genesis 2:20-25, 4:1
- Exodus 20:5-6, Joshua 7:10,15,24-25, 2 Kings 13:23

## **The family is constituted by marriage**

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- Genesis 2:20-25 A pattern or historical factoid? See v. 24 and Matthew 19:1-12
- Marriage is ordained by God.
- Marriage must be between one man and one woman.
- Marriage is characterized by leaving the authority structure of one's parents and joining together to form a new authority structure.
- Marriage is a picture of the relationship of Christ to the church. Ephesians 5:22-32
- Marriage is a covenant before God between a man and a woman. Proverbs 2:17, Malachi 2:14

## **God has commissioned humanity to be fruitful and multiply. Genesis 1:28**

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- God has ordained that children be brought into the world only through the procreative activity of a husband and wife and only to married parents.
- The ordinary privilege and responsibility of married people is to have and rear children. Genesis 1:28, 1 Timothy 2:15
- The special privilege and responsibility of Christian parents is to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, that they may come to know Christ. Ephesians 6:4

## **Parents have the primary responsibility & authority to teach their children**

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- Parents are responsible for their children's general education. Galatians 4:1-2
- Parents are responsible for their children's spiritual and theological education. Deut. 6:6-9, Proverbs 1:7

## **God does call some people to singleness**

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- Matthew 19:9-12
- I Corinthians 7:1-2,6-9,32-35,39-40

## Why do we need to have Biblical families?

- **Reproducing:** Genesis 1:28 “God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- **Authority:** Ephesians 6:1 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”
- **Socialization and Transmitting Social Norms:** Proverbs. 13:20 “He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm”
- **Value structure and Discipline:** Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
- **Work ethic:** 1 Timothy 5:8 “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
- **Family history:** Joshua 4:6-7 “Let this be a sign among you, so that when you children ask later saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ then you shall say to them, ‘Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.’ So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever.”
- **Living for something greater than yourself (love):** Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her...”
- **Commitment:** Psalm 37:5 “Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.”
- **Training for ministry:** 1 Timothy 3:4-5 “He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)...”

## HOW IS IT BEING UNDERMINED

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### Feminism

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- “A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle.”<sup>9</sup>
- The goal was to unhitch women from the traditional labels and roles that had built the American culture. They desired, and wholly welcomed, unwed parenthood and easy divorce as steps to gaining their long fought for liberation.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://nypost.com/2018/07/07/feminism-has-destabilized-the-american-family/> 05/04/2021

- Social scientists across the political spectrum agree this family chaos is destructive. In 2017, the poverty rate for woman-headed families with children was 36.5 percent, compared with 22.1 percent for father-only families and 7.5 percent for families headed by a married couple. And abundant data show married adults are happier, healthier and wealthier than singles.
  - The sexual revolution has scythed through the institution of marriage, leaving millions of women without the love and emotional and financial security that they and their children so need. It hasn't been a picnic for men, either.<sup>10</sup>

## **LGBTQ / Transgenderism Agenda**

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- We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.
  - We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise).<sup>11</sup>
- “We know that the nuclear private household is where the overwhelming majority of abuse can happen,” author Sophie Lewis explains. “And then there’s the whole question of what it is for: training us up to be workers, training us to be inhabitants of a binary-gendered and racially stratified system, training us not to be queer.”<sup>12</sup>
- There are now “conscious efforts to drive the Creator out of civic life; the rapid spread of pornography; new demands for easy divorce; attacks on the meaning of ‘wife’ and ‘husband’; a swelling of rhetoric of ‘gender’ and ‘sexual’ rights; conscious state campaigns aimed at population control; steps toward easy abortion; claims of sexual revolution; rejection of the concepts of duty and long-term commitment; and startling advances in the manipulation of human life.
  - As the author suggests, pushing these agendas is directly linked to population control. Without coming out and saying it in black and white terms, our society is deciding who reproduces and who does not with the LGBTQ agenda.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20200408020723/https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/> 05/04/2021

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/want-to-dismantle-capitalism-abolish-the-family/> 04/04/2021

## Independence / Selfishness

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- A desire to have freedom, over and above a family; to make money and live a “comfortable” lifestyle.
- Because our society celebrates the loner, institutions like the family and church have come increasingly under attack as many see them as infringing on their private life.
- The ideological enemies of the family include all those who would, whatever their motivation, strip the family of its functions, reduce the authority of parents, remove the social honor attached to marriage and family, and reassign family functions to the state and its ever-expanding bureaucracy. These social revolutionaries would include feminists, advocates of the welfare state, secularists, and social revisionists represented by developments such as the "children's rights movement" and movements of sexual "liberation," especially the homosexual rights movement.<sup>13</sup>

## Advantaged vs. Disadvantaged Children

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- Do you read to your children? A study in 2015 showed that by doing so, you have given your children an advantage over those who are not read to on a consistent basis.<sup>14</sup>
- By telling the Western world that having a “normal” functioning family is detrimental to those who do not, the hope is not that parents would desire to read more, but that there would be less “family time.”

## Tradition Equals Subordination

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- But unfortunately, “tradition” is indeed often used to justify discrimination and crackdowns on rights and is easily hijacked by nations determined to flout the rights of particular groups and to quash broader social, political, and legal freedoms. In such environments, “tradition” subordinates human rights. It should be the other way around.<sup>15</sup>
  - For LGBT people, *the language of traditional values tends to cast homosexuality as a moral issue*, and not a rights issue—as a social blight that must be contained and even eradicated for the good of public morality.

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.nationalreview.com/2015/05/professor-if-you-read-your-kids-youre-unfairly-disadvantaging-others-katherine-timpf/> 05/04/2021

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/01/11/trouble-tradition#> 05/04/2021

## Marxism / Communism

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- “Abolition [Aufhebung] of the family! Even the most radical flare up at this infamous proposal of the Communists,” Marx wrote. “On what foundation is the present family, the [traditional] family, based? On capital, on private gain. In its completely developed form, this family exists only among the [traditional].”<sup>16</sup>
- Communism understood that the family is an inherently conservative institution. The family, beginning with the marriage of the husband and the wife, it defines morality. It defines on earth a primary accountability and responsibility. It implies a sacred bond and it also protects the relationship between the mother and the father and their children.
  - But when you have communism, which has at its center an idolatrous understanding of the government or the state, anything that is so resistant in claiming a higher loyalty has to be removed. That is to say that children should be raised to see the state as the ultimate authority and the arbiter of good and evil, not their parents.<sup>17</sup>

## WHAT WILL ULTIMATELY BE THE EFFECTS?

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### Tearing down and restructuring of the family will have detrimental effects

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- Mass Shootings...since 2009 there have been 251 mass shootings, 1426 dead and 958 injured<sup>18</sup>
  - One of the key elements that researchers have found is that common to all mass shooters is they had a history of domestic violence<sup>19</sup> *and* experienced a childhood trauma<sup>20</sup>. To be sure, these things are not causative nor determinative, but certainly play a role in one’s actions.
  - All of these people grew up in unstable families. Nearly 3 in 4 children and teens killed in mass shootings died in an incident connected to domestic violence.
- A complete breakdown of the structure of society. By promoting divorce, no marriage but sex and sexual encounters of all kind and also releasing all moral bounds that have been traditionally placed on society.
  - A 1926 article from The Atlantic, written by a woman living in Russia at the time, describes these efforts in detail. The term “illegitimate children” was abolished, and a law was passed that allowed

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch02.htm> 05/04/2021

<sup>17</sup> <https://albertmohler.com/2019/05/24/briefing-5-24-19> 05/04/2021

<sup>18</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/mass-shootings-in-america-2009-2019/> 04/30/2021

<sup>19</sup> Domestic violence refers to violent behavior between current or former intimate partners.

<sup>20</sup> Childhood trauma is an event experienced by a child that threatens their life or bodily integrity.

couples to divorce in “a matter of a few minutes.” Legislation was introduced to eliminate distinctions between legal wives and mistresses, granting property rights to the unmarried consorts.

- *“Chaos was the result; Men took to changing wives with the same zest which they displayed in the consumption of the recently restored forty-per-cent vodka.”*<sup>21</sup>

- **Marriage is a key pillar of stability for both sexes and especially for children.**

- Divorce has led to unintentional consequence as women are commonly worse off financially after divorce than their ex-husbands.
- Social scientists across the political spectrum agree this family chaos is destructive.
  - In 2017, the poverty rate for woman-headed families with children was 36.5 percent, compared with 22.1 percent for father-only families and 7.5 percent for families headed by a married couple. Abundant data show married adults are happier, healthier and wealthier.
- Recent studies about the effects of fatherlessness have revealed that the rise of single-parent (which usually means mother-only) families has had even worse consequences for boys than for girls.
  - About half of American children will spend part of their childhood in a single-parent home.
- Father absence in African-American homes leads to more mental-health and behavioral problems for boys, according to an MIT study by two economists looking at brothers and sisters born in Florida between 1992 and 2002. “Growing up in a single-parent home appears to significantly decrease the probability of college attendance for boys but has no similar effect for girls.” They found other worrisome effects, too. *“Fatherless boys are less ambitious, less hopeful and more likely to get into trouble at school than fatherless girls.”*<sup>22</sup>

- **Everything is connected.** When more boys are growing up without fathers, there are fewer young men who become the kind of adults women want to marry — educated, employed, non-drug-abusing and not involved with the criminal-justice system.

- Without the grounding of marriage, men become disconnected from society.
  - Some 22 percent of prime-age men (25 to 54) are not working or looking for work. Unmarried men are over-represented in this group. By contrast, married men with only high-school diplomas are much more likely to be employed than unmarried men with some college or an associate’s degree.
- Despair comes from a lack of hope in anything ever getting better, which is why alcoholism, overdoses and suicide have been rising among white, working-class Americans, the very population that has witnessed a steep decline in family stability over the past several decades.

<sup>21</sup> <https://fee.org/articles/black-lives-matter-s-goal-to-disrupt-the-nuclear-family-fits-a-marxist-aim-that-goes-back-a-century-and-a-half/> 05/04/2021

<sup>22</sup> <https://nypost.com/2018/07/07/feminism-has-destabilized-the-american-family/> 05/04/2021



- How bad is it? "Foes have mounted attacks on all aspects of the natural family, from the bond of marriage to the birth of children to the true democracy of free homes. Ever more families show weaknesses and disorders. We see growing numbers of young adults rejecting the fullness and joy of marriage, choosing instead cheap substitutes or standing alone, where they are easy prey for the total state. Too many children are born outside of wedlock, ending as wards of that same state. Too few children are born inside married-couple homes, portending depopulation."<sup>23</sup>

## HOW TO RESPOND BIBLICALLY

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- Know that sin is the culprit behind what is happening in our society.
  - Ephesians 6:12 "***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood***, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."
- Prayer must be at the top of your to-do list every and all day.
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."
  - 1 Timothy 2:1 "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men..."
- No matter what stage of life you are in, you have a God given responsibility to live for His glory.
  - Many people are in the situation they are because of choices they made or choices that were made against them. Not all single parents chose to be where they are.
    - Single parents who have been sinned against need our prayers, encouragement and help.
  - Both single parents and singles in general have Biblical principles to learn and apply so that they are helping to maintain a Godly society.
- Train your children and your grandchildren in the ways of the Lord and be active in the Scriptures.
  - 2 Timothy 3:14-17 "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, ***knowing from whom you have learned them***, and that ***from childhood you have known the sacred writings*** which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

<sup>23</sup> <https://albertmohler.com/2005/04/07/in-defense-of-the-natural-family-2> 05/05/2021

- We must convey to our children that the Word of God has everything they need to not only live in this life but also the next. They need to know why they believe what they believe.
- Psalm 112:1-2 “Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed.”
- More than ever, you now need to be brave and confident in the Lord.
  - 1 Corinthians 16:13 “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” (4 imperatives)
  - Revelation 21:8 “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”
- We need to be discerning
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.”
- Know what is awaiting those who are faithful in this life.
  - Matthew 25:21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’”
  - Revelation 21:7 “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.”