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## **The Godly Family**

I have decided to put my newest presentation in print as many of you on the newsletter have not yet heard this one. The following has been derived from Ken Ham's The Genesis Family of which I call The Godly Family.

What do you think the perfect family would be? According to society it would be something like this: Parents birth the children, daycare provides for them, preschool prepares them to socialize and follow instructions, schools educate and provide activities, churches take care of the religion, colleges give them the needed higher education and finally, the government provides for the elderly. What's wrong with this picture of family? We are always relying on someone else and this is NOT part of GOD'S plan for family.

In order to properly understand the Godly family we need to go to Genesis where the first family begins with the uniting of one man and one woman into one flesh. It is of utmost importance for us to accept this as a true, literal event because not only does it rid any part of selfishness in a marriage but it also puts a whole new perspective on our purpose in marriage.

Why do we get married and become one anyway? Malachi 2:15

answers this by saying, "has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking Godly offspring." One of the primary purposes for marriage is to produce GODLY offspring. Today however, many are biased against having children because they are afraid of the overpopulation myth, or they want to be financially set, or they simply just don't want the responsibility. Not only this, but in a majority of the homes that do have children, who trains them -- mom or dad? Moms! But according to Scripture who is train the children? Dads! That's a major problem because too often today dads are more interested in their jobs, sports, TV, etc. How many fathers have family time today? We are doing something radical at our house - we eat together. Not only that but we have daily devotions and prayer, a foundation for a successful marriage and family. Ephesians 6:4 gives a solemn command, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Another passage we need to view is Psalm 78:3-8 which states, "What we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children . . .so the next generation would know them . . .and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds." David is saying fathers teach your children so they will teach their children and they will teach theirs and so on down the line. The sad thing is, in verse 11 we see that the fathers neglected this responsibility of telling their children about God's blessings because "they forgot what He had done, the wonders He had shown them." I believe we see this neglect happening today because how many people truly believe in Noah's flood or a 24 hour, six day creation? When Australia was founded in 1770 the Aborigines were viewed as a godless, primitive society. Darwin saw them as a type of missing link. Why? Because somewhere down the family line, a father neglected his responsibility and they became a godless, so called "primitive" (but fully human and loved

by God) society. Remember, it only takes one generation to make a godless society.

We see an example of this when the Israelites cross the Jordan into the promised land. Here they are told to take 12 stones from the middle of the Jordan (Joshua 4:5). Why? "He said to the Israelites, In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, 'what do these stones mean?' tell them, Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground" (Joshua 4:21-22). They were to be a stone memorial forever (Joshua 4:7). We have stone memorials today as well. When you take your kids to the Grand Canyon, don't just ooh and ahh over a great hole in the ground, tell your children about this memorial of Noah's flood and God's judgment upon a sinful world. Or when you see billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water all over the earth, tell them about fossils and how they need catastrophes like Noah's flood to form and how the Flood destroyed all living things outside the Ark.

Later in Judges 2:7-8 we see that all those who lived at the time of Joshua died. But now look at verses 10-11, it says the very next generation forgot the deeds of God. The generation of Joshua's day did not tell their children about the mighty works the Lord did for them. Read Psalm 78, that's exactly what happened and it only took one generation.

By the way, it's not just fathers we need to talk about, its the mothers also. Many moms don't want dad to be the spiritual head of the house and often times it is the women that are so outspoken in churches while the men sit back and do nothing. Someone recently told me about a speaker who opened up discussing these wonderful women's groups and missions serving the Lord. He then added, men, the song isn't "Take my wife and let me be". The question we must ask here is, are we willing to follow the roles God ordained for us regardless of our opinions? I Peter 2:24 tells us Christ was submissive to the point of death on the cross but I

Peter 3:1 tells wives to do likewise. Think about that wives. Later in verse 7 however, husbands are told to respect their wives and in Ephesians, "to love them as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her" (Eph 5:25). Maybe if husbands loved their wives like this, wives wouldn't have a problem being submissive. Maybe if wives were submissive, husbands wouldn't have a problem with love. We must both be submissive to the roles God has ordained for us in order for a marriage to be truly successful. Today many people are afraid of marriage because they don't think it will last. If you don't follow God's rules for a marriage and let His love lead you, your probably right. A recent USA today said 68% of marriages end up in divorce. However only 1 in 300 marriages end up in divorce among those couples that go to church regularly and have daily devotions, turning to Christ for their example. We are told that we fall in love. NO, we fall out of love, we choose to love the way the Bible says or we choose not to. Today we watch too much garbage on television; especially those soaps which give us a false impression of what love is, not to mention everything else that goes on in those programs.

Today we are becoming too anti-family. We don't eat together, we don't pray or have devotions together and often times we don't even worship together because our children sit with other children and talk during church. There is a lot of pressure out there trying to break apart the family unit, so fathers you are going to have to work hard to keep this from happening.

Let me ask this. Could you give me the answers to these questions? What does the Bible say about raising children, not your pastor etc.? How are you to educate your child? How do you discipline? What is education all about? Here is the next question. If you can't answer those questions what are you doing having children? Whose methods are you using if not the Bible's methods. Your parents? Your own? The wrong methods? How do you know what is right or wrong if you don't have an absolute (BIBLE) to measure

and build our thinking and judge what we do? We will either raise our children God's way or man's way - there is no in-between. I am not going to tell you what you should do but I am going to say this: our first priority must be to look at God's Word to measure our circumstances and build from there. Secondly, if you choose or have no choice but to send your child to a public school, I want you to be aware of some problems that are out there and I want you to be doing it for the right reasons.

Duet. 6:5-7 shows us that 100% of the time our aim must be to train our children in Godly things: "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Our children need to look at us and see Christ living in us. Yes that means we need to have family devotions, prayer and quality time, but it also means that when you go to the zoo and see animals eating meat you need to tell your children that we didn't always eat meat and that it wasn't until after Noah's flood that we were given permission to do so. When your out fixing the car and things are not going right don't let creative words come from your lips. We often hear that "little Bobby has a temper just like his father" Why? Because your children want to be just like you. Brook Adams, son of Charles Adams was Lincoln's ambassador to England. At 8 years old he wrote in his diary, "Went fishing with father, the most glorious day of my life." For the next 40 years he talked of this day as being one of the most influential of his life. The same day's entry for his father read, "Went fishing with my son today, a wasted day." Fathers, let this be a lesson of the importance of our time with our children. They watch you and they want to be just like you so let us spend quality instruction and fun time with our children.

Proverbs 22:6 says "train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." The word "train" really

means to give no option. Sound like brain washing? It is and it works well when the right person is doing it. I want you to understand that children are not adults: "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me" (I Cor 13:11). Many parents today are giving their children all kinds of choices to make on their own, using childish reasoning to come up with their decisions. They say, "I was raised a strict Christian and I want my child to have a choice." Show me where that is a Biblical concept. Others say Christianity was forced on them and they rebelled. Why? Because it was forced legalistically from the top down, not from the bottom up. For example, memory verses need the foundation of faith to prove their worth. Likewise, don't just tell your children they can't wear something indecent. Sit them down, show them in Scripture why we wear clothing and what it means to cause others to fall into sin. Eph. 4:14 tells us that children are easily swayed by every wind of doctrine etc. How will our children know how to make the right choices if they have not been trained from the foundation up in God's Word. There are only two ways of thinking -- God's way or man's way. If you send your child out in the real world, everything comes from a humanistic foundation. The way we view the stars, animals, humans, sex, etc. You see, evolution is not just chapter 10 in your science book, its an entire philosophy that is foundational for all our thinking. Many parents are trying to add God to a secular philosophy and we're making Christian humanists. That is why politicians can make the decisions they do and still claim to be Christian (This is also why I disagree with public textbooks in Christian schools). Scripture tells us there is a broad or narrow path but broad is the path to destruction. As parents we need to pull hard and pray hard for our children to keep them from going with the flow. And remember the bad will influence the good, the good not the bad (I Cor 15:33) so watch your child's choice of friends.

We are the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13) and our children are empty

salt shakers. We have to keep pouring in the salt (Biblical truth). The problem is because of our sinful nature from conception (Ps 51:5) our children don't want the salt so we have to keep pouring it in and pouring it in so that they remember it. What are kids watching today? TV, TV, TV. What are they remembering? What's on TV. Test it, read something from Scripture and ask them about it 3 weeks later. Fathers that may mean we need to give up some of our hobbies to spend quality instruction time with our children. By the way, it also means that you must have salt in yourselves and know Scripture yourself. How does that happen? Christianity through the Spirit of God. In Romans it states, "Now by dying to what once bound us we have been released from the law so that we now serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code"(Romans 6:6). Let the Spirit guide us in a life that exudes Christ. The love of Christ in our children will motivate them to live a Christian life.

Some think that we are isolating our children. Yes! It's just a matter of what you want to isolate them from-- God's Word, creation, prayer or from dirty jokes, evolution, liberalism etc. I prefer the word insulated. Eph. 6 says, "Put on the full armor of God. . .take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." You know the knights didn't just put on their armor and fight, they had to train and learn how to fight with the armor. Today, we are throwing the armor of God at our children and expecting them to know how to use it and in one generation--it's gone. Take the time to train your child in God's Word.

Psalms 127:3 tells us children are a gift from God and we have them to train for eternal life. Think about this for a minute. Close your eyes and imagine your child, house, boat, car, bank account, pets etc. Which one of these will last forever? Only one, the child. He will live forever and ever and ever in heaven or hell. Which one of these can you take with you? Only one.

So what is the priority in education? It's not the sports or academic programs. Phil. 3:7-8 show us that Christ is the most important thing: "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ." II Timothy 3:14-15 shows us that from infancy a child should learn Scripture where true wisdom resides. I would rather have my son be a ditch digger in heaven, then a famous doctor or lawyer in hell.

Are you taking your child with you? Some of you may be wondering "what do I do as a single parent" or maybe your feeling guilty about what you did not do. The principle here is not what we have done wrong (that's forgiven) but what we're going to do and that we must follow God's Word in all our circumstances. God will provide and it's never too late to grab on to His providence and care. I am still learning much from my parents as I see the Lord working in their lives. Surrender our all to God and let the Spirit of Christ work in our lives that we may become obedient to His Word and rely upon His strength in our family. Don't send your children to church, take them. Don't send your children to Sunday school, take them. Don't tell your children to pray, pray with them. "And if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who lives in you (Romans 8:10-11).