

The Christian Arsenal

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WHAT'S A FAMILY FOR? Home Improvement

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Part 4 of 8
Genesis 2:18,24

There are some who say that the family is obsolete. The family is not finished, it's just fragmented and fragile.

"The Lord God said, It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife ..." Genesis 2:18-24

GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY

1. A FAMILY IS A SHELTER FROM STORMS

"Reverence for the Lord gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security." Prov. 14:26 (LB)

TYPES OF STORMS

- **CHANGE** – Any change for good or for bad, positive or negative, causes stress.
- **FAILURE** – Failure is a whole lot easier to handle when you come home to hugs and there's somebody there to put their arms around you and say, "We're going to make it!"

"Two are better than one ... If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him." Eccl 4:9-10 (GN)

- **REJECTION** – It hurts to be criticized.

"One standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back and conquer." Eccl. 4:12 (LB)

HOW DO YOU TURN A HOME INTO A SHELTER?

- **HEAR** – You need a listening ear if you're going to build a shelter from storms.
- **HUG** – You need to give physical affection in your family.

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“One generation makes known your faithfulness to the next.” Isaiah 38:19 (LB)

Your training in your own family isn't affecting just your own family. It's going to affect generations as you have been affected by generations.

“These commandments ...impress them upon 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.” Deut. 6:6,7

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3. **A FAMILY IS A PLACE TO PLAY.**

The family is: a habitat for happiness.
 a format for fun.
 a place to party.
 a place to let down, kick back, relax and enjoy life.

“Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love ...” Eccl. 9:9

“Be happy with your wife and find your joy with the girl you married.” Prov. 5:18 (GN)

“children are a gift from God; they are His reward. Children are like sharp arrows ... Happy is the man whose quiver is full of them.” Psalm 127:3-5 (LB)

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4. **A FAMILY IS TO BE A LAUNCH PAD FOR MINISTRY.**

When you're serving the Lord together there is a glue that's going to last clear into eternity.

“Stephanus and his family ... were the first to become Christians in Greece and they are spending their lives helping and serving Christians everywhere.” 1 Cor. 16:15 (LB)

“...the whole family was filled with joy because they had come to believe in God.” Acts 16:34

“When God's children are in need ... help them out! And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.” Romans 12:13 (LB)

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Recent Report: "A Report to the Nation: Marriage In America." They said that the result of the devaluation and fragmentation of the family has produced these effects:

- a 500% increase of juvenile violent crime.
- Teenage suicide rate has tripled.
- The eating disorders among adolescent girls have soared.
- The poverty rate for children has increased from 15% to 22% in America.

The study blames the shift in the shift away from values in the institution of marriage and family to the values of individualism, choice and personal liberty.

Statement of today: "I've got to do what's best for me. – I've got to think of my career, etc.

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