

## God Planned The Family

Text : **Deut. 6: 1-15**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

#### **A. All of us came into the world with nothing.**

1. **Eccl. 5: 15-** As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand.
2. No matter how much one accumulates while he's here, he takes out of this world exactly what he brought in to it.
3. That which ultimately distinguishes between men is the decisions one makes while here.

#### **B. As we came into the world physically naked, we also came in mentally naked.**

1. For mankind, few things are instinctive.
  - a. Eating, breathing, blinking our eyes, etc.
  - b. There are some survival instincts. (Cling to avoid falling , fight or flight , etc. )
  - c. The desire to breed is instinctive. ( lust , compete for mate , etc. )
2. Some are born with a greater ability to learn, but all are born ignorant.
  - a. Thus, no one is born with the ability to make good decisions.
  - b. Everyone must learn to make decisions well enough to survive.
3. Knowledge comes only through instruction and observation.
  - a. People don't even know how to communicate when born. ( **Speak language heard** )
  - b. They learn how to reason. ( **The process of logic varies from person to person.** )
  - c. Each one learns a system of values.

#### **C. The early development of knowledge, reasoning skills and values often determine how receptive one will be God.**

1. God's plan is for us to receive this primary value system from our parents.
2. More is taught informally than is taught in lessons or training sessions.
3. One's value system determines his character.
  - a. No one is born dishonest.
  - b. The propensity toward violence is learned, not inherited.

#### **D. Like any other predator, Satan attacks those who cannot defend themselves.**

1. Predators pick off the stragglers, the injured, the weak and the young.

**ILL.- The coyotes are attacking children in California, not adults.**

2. Satan uses our own weaknesses against us so the young are the most vulnerable.
  - a. The battle is spiritual, but it's fought in the flesh.
  - b. The young have all the same fleshly weaknesses as adults, BUT :
    - 1) They have less control over their desires.
    - 2) They have less experience from which to draw.
3. The young have a strong desire to be what they have not yet become, mature adults.
  - a. Their failure to recognize their limitations makes them vulnerable to attack.

**ILL.- Only drunks have more accidents than young people.**

**WHY ? They have faster reactions, better eyes, are stronger ?**

**They do not have experience enough to know their limitations.**

- b. Their strong desire for peer acceptance makes them vulnerable to Satan's manipulation.
    - 1) They do whatever is required to be accepted by other immature people.
- ILL.- Rehoboam son of Solomon lost northern tribes to Jeroboam**
- 2) American culture's emphasis on independence exacerbates this problem.
  - c. Like a pack of wolves, wicked men ( Satan ) use the media to exploit this weakness.
    - 1) They teach and manipulate using teen stars. ( **dress, morals, acceptance of sin** )
    - 2) Their programming is agenda oriented. ( **Shape values, Reject God's standards** )

### **TRANSITION :**

**God established the family to protect the weak until they have an opportunity to develop the strength to stand against his wiles. By this lesson we want to remind ourselves of the importance of the family in God's plan for saving mankind.**

## **I. The family's first function is to provide for the procreation of the species, to breed.**

- A. Imagine the condition of our world without the family structure.**
  1. The stronger males would take and discard the weaker females at will.
    - a. Children would have no protection from exploitation.
    - b. Women would have children for which they could not provide.
    - c. There would be no way of tracing who was related to whom. ( **Sound familiar ?** )
  2. History teaches us that a strong family structure is one of the 5 keys to a nation's survival.
  3. Without a strong family there is no way of passing down social or religious values.
  4. W/O a family structure young people would be exploited by unscrupulous people.

**B. The degeneration of the family is already causing major problems in the U.S.**

1. Untaught, untrained, undisciplined children are producing more untaught, untrained .....
2. The result is increasing social problems caused by :
  - a. violence
  - b. lawlessness ( **rejection of authority** )
  - c. unproductive people who want to receive

**C. In His wisdom, God forbade all sexual activity outside the marriage bond.**

1. Children should never be brought into the world outside the family structure.
  - \* **God's plan is for everyone to enter society via a family. ( To be socialized first. )**
2. Even the most devoted single parent cannot do an adequate job raising a child.
  - a. Normal human development requires the influence of two parents. ( **male & female** )
  - b. One parent cannot adequately protect, provide and train up a child. ( **prepare** )
  - c. Just being in a nuclear family gives some level of training.
    - \* **Studies show Single parents tend to raise children who will become single parents.**
3. **"Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery"** wasn't given to prevent people from experiencing pleasure.
  - a. The integrity of the family is best for mankind. ( **The God who created knows.** )
  - b. Children of fornication are born handicapped.
    - 1) They have no family and their existence creates stressful situation.
    - 2) They set a bad example for themselves and others. ( **often held against them** )
    - 3) Legal and spiritual problems : **I Cor. 7:14** .. **"unclean"** cf.- **Deut. 23:2** .. **10<sup>th</sup> genera.**
  - c. Fornication will cost a person his/her eternal soul if not repented of and forgiven.
    - 1) **I Cor. 6: 9-11** **Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.**
    - 2) **Gal. 5: 19-21** - cf - **Rev. 21: 8**
    - 3) **Eph. 5: 5** - cf - **Col. 3: 5** , etc.

**D. Can anyone question that our creator knows what is best for us.**

- \* **God's plan is for everyone to be socialized in a family before entering society.**

## II. God planned for the family to be the place where proper values are passed down.

### A. As one matures, values are picked up whether he wants them or not.

1. For example, when in a threatening situation Abraham had a habit of lying.
  - a. **Gen. 12: 13** ... To the Egyptian Pharaoh
  - b. **Gen. 20: 2** ... To Abimelech King of Gerar
2. Isaac told the very same lie regarding his wife, Rebecca.
  - a. **Gen. 26: 7-11** ... Also to Abimelech King of Gerar
  - b. Abraham would never have intentionally taught his son to be dishonest.

### B. Like Abraham, many Christian parent unwittingly teach their children to put God behind many other things in life.

1. Work is very often put before God.
    - a. "I have no time, I have to work."
    - b. "I'm too tired, I have work early in the morning."
  2. Family very often comes before God. ( **Matt. 10:37** )
  3. For many having nice things or pleasant experiences ( fun ) comes before God.
  4. When young people are not given pleasant experiences in church they are taught that one must go to the world to find enjoyment or happiness.
    - a. Serving God is more than spending time in a church building.
    - b. In Christ there one should find joy in relationships.
 

**Young people are going to have relationships somewhere; if not in Christ, in the world and one of those relationships will result marriage.**
    - c. There should be pleasant, joyful experiences in Christ and in His church.
 

**People will seek out enjoyable experiences. If they don't find them in the church, they'll find them in the world. Kids who grow up in families that find their joy in the world, will seek their joy there as well.**
- \* **ILL.-** Children in cradle role class often say Jesus or bible as their first word because they associate it with something very sweet.

### C. It's God's will that parents teach their children to know, to fear and to love God.

1. This is one of the reasons God chose to make a covenant with Abraham.
 

**Gen. 18: 19-** "... so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord ..."
2. Israel was commanded to teach their children about what God had done for them.
  - a. **Exod. 12: 23-27** ... The observance of the Passover was to be a teaching experience.
  - b. **Josh. 4:4-7, 21-22** ... Piled stones by Jordan to be a visual aide in teaching children.

3. Moses commanded the parents of Israel to be responsible for teaching the Law of God.
    - Deut. 6: 6-7** These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart<sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.
    - a. They were not required to take or send them to synagogue school every Saturday.
    - b. It was to be apart of their daily discussion.
    - c. *“Son, this is what life is all about.”* ( Life is not just about paying the mortgage. )
  - \* 4. This same principle is set forth in the New Testament for Christians.
    - a. **Eph. 6: 4-** ... bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
    - b. **The command is for parents to raise the children in a Godly lifestyle.**
    - c. NOT just make sure they set in a pew every Sunday.
- \* **We keep them in school for 12 yrs + college training for earth, but eternity ???**

### III. Family life in America is being destroyed in two ways.

- A. Satan has convinced us that we must have an abundance of things to be happy.
  1. It is possible to be happy when one has very little.
    - a. There are many happy people in impoverished countries.
    - b. Our grandparents were happy without all the things we think we have to have.
  2. We lust for things because we are taught to desire them.
    - a. We have lost sight of the concept of contentment.
      - I Tim. 6:6-8** But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. <sup>7</sup> For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. <sup>8</sup> If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
    - b. If one sees his parents centering their lives around things, it's natural for him to do likewise.
    - c. People spend hours watching TV. At least 18 minutes of every hour is commercials urging the purchase of THINGS. ( **Satan's sermon never changes.** )
  3. We allow ourselves to be seduced by the world.
    - a. Remember the admonition of the Apostle John.
      - I John 2: 15-** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
    - b. Jesus taught the same thing.
      - Luke 16: 13-** No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

**B. Secondly, family skills are not being taught to the young people.**

1. Family skills are not inherited. **They must be learned.**
2. Increasing numbers of families have no family life so the young never experience it.
  - a. We stay so busy we have no time for family and accept it as normal.
  - b. SADLY, we've been deceived to the point we view this vice as a virtue.
3. Older Christian women are instructed to train the younger women in family skills.
  - a. **Titus 2: 3-5** Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, <sup>4</sup> so that they may train the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.
  - b. The inference is that if older women are to teach younger women, older men should also teach younger men to have family skills.
  - c. The family relationship is the foundation upon which every succeeding relationship in life is built. **Thus, all success begins in the family.**

**C. We dare not let Satan alter God's plan for the family.**

**CONCLUSION :**

**A. The future and the success of the church is directly linked to that of it's families.**

1. God's church is patterned after the family.
2. When people don't know how to make a family work, they can't make the church work.

**B. Thus, parents control the destiny of their children's souls and of others as well.**

1. Therefore, the job of a parent is the most important job on the planet.
2. We salute you parents, grandparents and great grandparents this day.
3. We urge you to take your job seriously
  - a. The future of the church depends upon you.
  - b. The future of the country depends on you.
  - c. The future of your children are in your hands.

**C. Parenthood is a life long commitment. ( Grandparents are still parents. )**

**INVITATION :** The only more permanent commitment is to God. ETERNAL