

MLIBC 3.4

My Life In Christ Blessed by Family

I. **Introduction:** The purpose of this lesson is to help the believer appreciate the God-ordained value and importance of the family. God's order and design of the family, household, or home is to have it be a God centered and God glorifying safe place for its members, as well as a fundamental building block for His church and the community. Isa 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." Being reminded that man was created for God's glory, we will look at what Scripture says, and how to apply this to our lives and families.

A. **Key Verse:** Psa. 127:1 "Unless **the Lord builds the house**, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep. 3 Behold, **children are a heritage from the Lord**, the fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 **Like arrows in the hand of a warrior**, so are the children of one's youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate."

B. **What is the family?** The Bible defines "family" narrowly as the union of one man and one woman in matrimony that is typically blessed with children. (Gen 1:26-28)

1. Designed by God — Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ...
2. In His image — Gen 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
3. Intending blessed fruitfulness — Gen 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;

II. **The "Perfect" Family:** From the very first family, Adam and Eve, we see beauty and dignity randomly mingled with failure and shame. In the Bible "perfection" is not demonstrated by any person or family unit. However,

there are many examples of right and wrong behaviors within a family context, along with stunning examples of blessing or consequences for various actions.

A. **Adam and Eve** — Gen. 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16

1. Great for each other — Gen. 2:18 And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”
2. They have work to do — Gen 1:28 ... “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
3. They fail, and all suffer the consequences — Gen. 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

B. **Other Bible Examples of “Family”:**

1. The Glory of God manifested in human family: Gen 21 Sarah and Abraham; Gen 50:20 the reconciliation of Joseph and his siblings; 1Sam 1:19-20 God gives Hannah a son; Acts 8 Philip has four daughters that serve Lord in prophecy;
2. Human frailty abounding: Gen 4:1-8 Cain kills his brother Abel; Gen 9:20-25 Noah’s son Ham mocks his father’s drunken behavior, and is cursed for it; Gen 25:31-33, 27:4-23 Jacob takes his brothers birthright, and blessing; Gen 37 Joseph’s brothers are jealous of him, terrorize him, and sell him into slavery; Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira agree to lie about an offering they giving and are judged by God.
3. God as Father, Son, and Spirit: Gen 1:26 “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;”; 1John 5:7 “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.”; (1Jn 1:1; 1Cor 8:4-6; 2Cor 13:14; Acts 2:33; Jn 17:20-23)

4. Jesus Christ and the Church: Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph 5:32; 2Cor 11:2; Rev 19:7-8)

III. The Primary Functions of Family Members:

- A. **The husband and father:** the husband bears the first responsibility physically and spiritually in protecting, providing for, and being a godly example for his household. (1Tim 5:8; Ex 12:3)
 1. Yields to Christ as his head — 1Cor 11:3
 2. Receives his wife as a gift from God — Gen 2:18-24
 3. As Christ did for him, unselfishly gives himself to his wife and children — Eph 5:25-31; Phil 2:5-8
 4. Treat his wife with dignity and honor — 1Pet 3:7
 5. Work with his spouse to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord — Eph 6:4
- B. **The wife and mother:** the heart of the household — as the heart of the home the wife is to be virtuous, disciplined, and gracious as she works with her husband toward the well-being of their household
 1. Exerts powerful transformational influence through the honor and respect of her husband — 1Pet 3:1-6
 2. Cooperates with her husbands headship — Eph 5:22-24
 3. Uses her gifts and talents for the good of her family — Prov 31
 4. Keeps sweet in the ups and downs — 1Pet 3:1-5
 5. Work with his spouse to bring their children up in the Lord — Eph 6:1-3
- C. **The children:** Children are gifts from God to a husband and wife
 1. Children are a gift from God — Psa 127:3
 2. Children are meant to grow like fruitful plants — Psa 128:3

3. Children are to obey and honor their parents — Eph 6:1-3
4. Children are to learn how to live by their parents — Prov 22:6

IV. Keys to Successful Family Living: There are no guarantees or miracle formulas to achieve success in the home. Certain attitudes and qualities must prevail among all family members to invite and maintain God's presence and blessing.

- A. Love — When each member is motivated by love problems will be minimized. 1Cor. 13:4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up ...
- B. Mutual Submission — As we yield our rights to each other, peace prevails. Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.
- C. Communication — Lives flourish with open and honest communication. Eph 4: 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
- D. Forgiveness — There are many opportunities to forgive. Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
- E. Servant Heart — When members serve each other needs are abundantly met. Phil. 2:5 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,"