

Bible Study on The Christian Home – Handout 1

Grace Bible Chapel

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Introduction

The home is under assault in our society. Even a casual look statistically will show just how horrific the evidence of problems:

- Since 1963, violent crime has increased over 500 %.
 - Illegitimate births have increased 400 %.
 - Divorces have increased 400 %.
 - Teenage suicide has increased 200 %.
 - S.A.T. scores have fallen 80+ points.
 - Homosexual marriage legislation is on the march.
 - More than 1,370,000 abortions annually in the US.
 - 33.2% all children born in America no family.
 - 68.5% all black children born in America no family.
 - Unmarried couple households:
 - 300,000 households in 1960 - 5 million in 2,000 & growing
 - The marriage rate per 1000 people is down to 8% from 15%
 - The divorce rate is more than 1/2 of those
- *(from US Census figures of year 2,000)

The home in what we consider as traditional values is under pressure and severe attack in all the following areas:

- Breakdown of the traditional family
 - Liberal churches & other religions – decline of Christianity
 - Evolution taught as a fact – breakdown of life's sanctity
 - Television, movies, games and entertainment
 - Public School system, colleges, and universities
 - Major leftist organizations that are growing in popularity
 - Marxist / socialist philosophy, and secular humanism
 - Materialism – striving for possessions as foremost importance
 - Focus on Sex – lifestyles of promiscuity – sexual revolution
 - Abortion on demand – child behavioral problems
 - Woman's liberation and self-fulfillment
 - Political correctness, environmental issues replacing values
 - The Bible replaced with psychology and humanistic philosophy
- The origin of the family
 - All families derive their name from God the Father (Eph 3:14)
 - God as creator and designer is the Father of all – He precedes all the families, clans, tribes, homes, and nations of the earth.
 - Each and every family on earth sustains an evident relation on earth to God and every other family on earth in history and sovereign determination (Acts 17:26).
 - Families are not relegated to Judeo-Christian societies only – literally all societies in history have had families built around the universal relationship between a man and a woman in some form of mutual responsibility.
 - Never has the promiscuity of random mating been a characteristic of human society, in any society, including those practicing polygamy.
 - The family was designed by God to accomplish God's purposes.
 - The family is purposeful, showing God's wisdom – even the Savior came via the family channel (Mat 1).
 - The family provides necessary structure (Col 3:30; Eph 6:11-14).
 - The family serves as an agent for functionality, control, and instruction.
 - The family is one of three institutions decreed by God for man (family, government, church).
 - The family was decreed and formed by God before the fall (Gen 2:18-25).
 - Man required the completion of a woman (Gen 2:18-20).

- Woman was formed from man (Gen 2:23).
- One man & one woman form an inseparable union (Gen 2:24).
- The union in marriage becomes unique & autonomous from all other relationships (Gen 2:24).
- The union of marriage is righteous before God (Gen 2:25).
- The decrees as a result of the fall (Gen 3:17-19).
 - Life will become harsh, burdensome, difficult – this was aimed predominately at the man as the provider (Gen 3:17-18).
 - All people will grow old and die (Gen 3:19).
 - People will be besieged by Satan & evil – this has ultimate fulfillment in Christ, but immediate in all (Gen 3:15).
 - Women will have great pain & difficulty in childbirth (Gen 3:16).
 - Women will be subjected by position or role under the authority and control of a man (Gen 3:16).
- The role of the family in relation to the fall and sin.
 - Each person is ruined in Sin – we sin because we are sinners (Eph 2:1-3)
 - Sin begins in a person the minute they are born (Ps 51:5)
 - Our world is under the curse – we are not on neutral ground that is fair or balanced (Gen 3:17-18)
 - Our world, country, cities, neighborhoods, places of education, and churches are all under the effects of the fall (Rom 3:9)
 - No amount of education, philosophy, psychology, science, government, or affluence will lift us from the dilemma of the effects of sin (John 3:1-7)
 - Our homes are places where sinners live
 - The Christian is the only person who can understand why we are and act the way we do, and flee under God's grace to the only hope and cure – John 8:36
 - God created the family as one of the primary institutions to curb the effects of sin.
 - Man's condition in sin must be constantly kept in mind as we study the Christian home.

Because mankind is under the dominion of sin, the Christian home is surrounded and immersed in the forces of evil that surround the family unit (home). Every form of evil is an enemy to the Christian home, and seeks to inhabit it. Evil and destructive messages come to the home from numerous sources. These messages push and promote evil practices as a normal lifestyle. Deceptive philosophies are pushing family minds against truth, righteousness, and away from God. These deceptive philosophies seek to find a nest in the home. These philosophies desire to establish wicked practices as the standard for the home. In addition to the forces of evil, the encroachment of ever expanding government seeks to enforce its humanistic will into the lifestyle, and life decisions of the family. The modern family in this era must seek ways to combat all these forces.

How did we get to where we are, and how do we begin to understand the circumstances our families must exist. The history of the family home in America is a history attached in direct proportion to the philosophical movement of the church.

The church is called by some “the gate keeper of values.” As a result, when the history of the church demonstrates a decline, so does the family. The decline of the family seems to be in direct proportion to the decline of the faithfulness of the church to the Word of God. The same is also true regarding the institution of government.

There are many phases to society over an historic period of time. Trends change almost daily. New ideas flourish, than change again to something else. People's attitudes, morals, philosophies, and practices change with the current of evil persuasion. However, there is one way, and one way only to combat such – that is a church and a home that is built solidly on Christ, and commitment to the Holy Scriptures (Eph 4:14).