



God created the family for His glory and His character. As with the Sabbath, the family is the other sanctified institution God built into a perfect creation. Before sin entered the world, God blessed Adam with a female companion to populate the earth and create an environment where peace and godliness abound.

However, with the entrance of sin, God's perfect blueprint for humanity was severely altered. Adam and Eve were evicted from their paradise home and the world has not been the same since.

The world became an adverse environment for marriage and family. Broken homes, fractured promises, confused children, multiple marriages, divorce, and abuse mar the landscape of the family. What God intended to be an uninterrupted blessing has to a great degree become an understated challenge.

In spite of our broken history, God still has a wonderful plan for the restoration of the family and marriage. God's Word is replete with promises, instruction, and divine power, that when followed, can empower the marriage and family to be a haven of peace, joy, and holiness.

This lesson is designed to introduce you to God's original plan for the marriage and family. As far removed as we are from the perfection of creation, God has not changed. Hope and power is still available and secure in the future of the family that trusts in God and His Word. May your joy be full as you follow God's plan.

GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

- Genesis 2:18** - God's creation of male and female completes God's Image.
- Genesis 2:18** - God's plan is for a man to have a female companion.
- Genesis 2:21-25** - God created Eve to be Adam's wife.
- Proverbs 18:22** - When a man finds a wife He receives favor from the Lord.
- Proverbs 12:4** - A wife should be a woman with an honorable character.
- Proverbs 19:15** - A wife with wisdom and prudence is a gift from the Lord.
- Proverbs 31:10** - A wife of noble character is more valuable than riches.
- Proverbs 20:6-7** - God calls on men to be faithful, righteous and upright.
- Ephesians 5:22** - Wives are to present themselves to their own husbands.
- Ephesians 5:23** - The Husband that reflects Christ is the head of the wife.
- Ephesians 5:24** - The wife is to honor the husband in everything.
- Ephesians 5:25** - The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves His church.
- Ephesians 5:26** - The husband honors his wife in a holy relationship.
- Ephesians 5:27** - The husband must do his all to maintain a pure relationship.
- Ephesians 5:28-29** - A husband that loves his wife loves himself.
- Ephesians 5:33** - The wife respects her husband as the husband loves his wife.

THE BLESSING OF MARRIAGE

- Matthew 19:4-6** - Marriage merges the husband and wife into one flesh.
- 1 Corinthians 7:3** - Both man and wife are to fulfill each other's sexual needs.
- 1 Corinthians 7:4** - Neither wife nor husband have authority over their own body.
- 1 Corinthians 7:9** - Marriage is better than living with uncontrolled passions.
- 1 Corinthians 7:12,13** - The believer must not leave the willing unbelieving spouse.
- 1 Corinthians 7:14** - The unbelieving spouse is sanctified by the believing spouse.
- Colossians 3:19** - Husbands are not to be harsh to their wives.
- Hebrews 13:4** - The marriage bed is to be kept pure.
- Hebrews 13:5** - Keep your marriage free from financial burdens.
- Ecclesiastes 9:9** - Live joyfully with your wife and enjoy life together.
- Matthew 19:8-9** - Divorce is permitted, not mandatory on the basis of immorality.

GODLY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

- Exodus 20:12** - By honoring our parents we will be blessed with long life.
- Matthew 15:4** - Disobedient children were cursed with death.
- Psalms 127:5** - Children are a heritage and blessing from the Lord.
- Proverbs 22:6** - Train children in the way that they should go.
- Proverbs 23:22** - Listen to your father and do not despise your aged mother.
- Proverbs 15:20** - A foolish son despises his mother.
- Ephesians 6:1** - Children must obey and honor their parents in the Lord.
- Colossians 3:20** - Children should obey their parents in all things.
- Ephesians 6:4** - Do not provoke children to anger; raise them in the Lord.
- Proverbs 5:1** - Listening to wisdom saves a son from a forward woman.
- Titus 2:4** - Wives ought to love their husbands and children.
- Deuteronomy 6:7** - The parents should teach their children to honor God's Law.