**God's Relationship In The Family**

# Reading Assignments: Genesis 2:18; 6:18; 12:4-5; 17: 12-13; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21; Acts 16:11-15, 16:31-33

Class Introduction: The concept of family is extremely important in the Bible, both in a physical sense and in a theological sense. The structure of the family is vital to so many other laws, principles and teachings in the Bible. If it is so important, it is also important to understand what God’s plan for the family is so that we can understand the rest of His Word as it applies to us today.

The concept of family was introduced in the very beginning, as we see in [Genesis 1:28](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%201.28), "God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" God's plan for creation was for men and women to marry and have children. A man and a woman would form a "one-flesh" union through marriage ([Genesis 2:24](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%202.24)), and they with their children become a family, the essential building block of human society.

**Class Section-1**: Without a man and a woman coming together in marriage, there is no family. God’s desire for the [family](https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/bible-verses-about-family-20-uplifting-scripture-quotes/) is that it reproduce and multiply. Genesis 1:27 and 28 say, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” God desires that husbands and wives bring forth offspring. This creates more of the definition God has for a family.

**Class Section-2:** Within the family God has given its members roles and responsibilities Husband Ephesians 5:25-28 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Colossians 3:19 “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.”

God commands husbands to love their wife as their own flesh. When men do not [love their wife](https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/how-to-love-your-wife-7-helpful-tips/) as they should, they are not fulfilling God’s plan for the father of the family.

Just before these verses in Ephesians, God says to wives that they should submit. However, men loving their wife is not conditional on the wife submitting. He should love whether or not she submits. Yet it stands to reason that she is more likely to submit if he will [love](https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/bible-verses-about-love-25-awesome-scripture-quotes/) her as he should.

Father Ephesians 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Colossians 3:21“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”

This verse tells us that fathers are to bring up their children in the teachings of the Lord and to not “provoke them to wrath,” or, badger and shame them until they hate their father.

Wife Ephesians 5:23-23 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

Wives are told to submit to their husbands. By them submitting to their husbands they are showing a proper relationship to authority. When they submit to and [respect](https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/how-to-respect-your-husband-7-helpful-hints/) authority, it will help children understand their need to submit to the authority over them.

Mother 1 Timothy 5:14 “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”

Titus 2:4, 5 “That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

Young mothers are taught by the older women in the church and in their lives to bear children, love their husbands, guide the home, obey, submit and teach their children. By doing so their children will grow up being taught to honor God’s Word.

Children Exodus 20:12 “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”

Ephesians 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

[Children](https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/bible-verses-about-children-25-inspirational-scripture-quotes/) are to obey and honor their parents. This means that they not only need to obey, but to obey in a respectful way that adds value to the family unit and their parents. While we don’t know exactly how long we are given by God to live, we are told that those who honor their parents will live longer lives than they would if they were disobedient, hateful and disrespectful to their mother and father.

Siblings I Timothy 5:1-3 “Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. Honour widows that are widows indeed.”

Paul is teaching Timothy, and us, that a family unit behaves with respect towards one another. In the church we are to respect and honor others as we would our own brothers, sisters, parents and extended family.

**Class Section 3:** Theological concept of family (Family, Church and God’s Authority)

When we get a grasp of the family structure God has established, we can get a better understanding of how God wants us to interact with one another and with His authority. **God didn’t create the family to be self-serving, self-reliant cocoons of people.**[God created families](http://forthefamily.org/creating-a-gospel-centered-home/)**as a vehicle to advance the gospel and fulfill the Great Commission.**

The family unit points us to another establishment God has ordained—the church. Jesus Christ is the head of the church. He is the authority. The church as a whole is His bride. We as individuals in the church are His children and siblings one with another. The physical family is the most important building block to human society, and as such, it should be nurtured and protected. But more important than that is the new creation that God is making in Christ, which is comprised of a spiritual family, the Church, made up of all people who call upon the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. This is a family drawn "from every nation, tribe, people and language" ([Revelation 7:9](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%207.9)), and the defining characteristic of this spiritual family is love for one another: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" ([John 13:34-35](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2013.34-35)).

During His three-year ministry, Jesus shattered some prevailing notions of what it meant to be part of a family: "While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, ‘Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.’ He replied to him, ‘Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?’ Pointing to his disciples, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother’” ([Matthew 12:46-50](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2012.46-50)). Jesus is not saying that biological family isn't important; He is not dismissing His mother and brothers. What He is doing is making the clear theological point that in the Kingdom of Heaven, the most important family connection is spiritual, not physical.

This is a truth made clear in John's 1:12-13; when the evangelist says, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" ([John 1:12-13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.12-13)).  
  
The parallels are quite clear. When we are born physically, we’re born into a physical family, but when we are "born again," we are born into a spiritual family. Romans 8:15 say, we are adopted into God's family. When we are adopted into God's spiritual family, the Church, God becomes our Father and Jesus our Brother. This spiritual family is not bound by ethnicity, gender or social standing. As Paul says, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" ([Galatians 3:26-29](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gal%203.26-29)).