

# Relationships

## Understanding Your Roles

### *In the Family*

**Premise:** To understand your roles in the family, you must **first understand how and why God established the family in the way He did.**

**In the Beginning**, God established the family... It was always His plan that the family would be a **mirror image of His (Father God's) love for His family (Believers – the children of God)**. The family is also meant to be a **mirror image of Jesus (the bridegroom) and the Church (His bride)**, Ephesians 5:22-33.

### God's Perfect Will for the Family

- 1) A family unit was to be a group of people **related by marriage**, generally living together in the same household.
- 2) When God created man, He said it is **not good that man should be alone** (Genesis 2:18), so He created woman and united them as a couple (Genesis 2:24).
- 3) A man was to be the **husband of ONE wife** (Genesis 1-2), and he was to leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and **they shall become ONE FLESH** (Genesis 2:24).
- 4) The family was designed by God **to provide companionship and love to His children.**
- 5) God's ideal for the family is that there be **harmony in every aspect of it**, where love for God and neighbor are instilled into each member (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

If a man and wife are divided, they can never have the kind of harmony or a sense of common purpose that God desires. **When the core beliefs of the family are divided, the home will not stand (Mark 3:25)**. This is why Paul commanded New Testament believers, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Corinthian 6:14).

### The Breakdown of the Family over the Centuries threatens the very existence of man

**(Ask a student to read out loud the following Scripture References.)**

The prophet Micah described the **decay of families** in his day, *Chapter 7:5-6*.

Malachi condemned the men of his generation **for being faithless to the wives of their youth**, *Chapter 2:14-15*.

## Why did God establish the man as head of the family

This was meant to **display the image of God as the Father of His children** (believers). With this appointment comes **responsibility in three areas**:

Spiritual, social, and economical.

### Define these three areas of responsibility...

#### #1 – Spiritual Responsibility

The father is responsible for the **spiritual well-being** of the family and its individual members. He is to be the **priest of his home**. Leading, guiding and directing the family in the same manner that God directs his children (Exodus 12:3, 26-27; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

#### #2 – Social Responsibility

The father is responsible **to see that no one takes advantage of any member of his family**. Those who were not protected by a father were truly disadvantaged person. Once the father is absent from this responsibility his children become orphans and his wife becomes a widow. They are left to fend for themselves and God never intended the family unit to function in this manner.

#### #3 – Economical Responsibility

The father is to **provide for the needs of all the family members**. Paul rebuked those who considered themselves Christian but who did not look after the needs of their families (1 Timothy 5:8).

## Developing an appreciation of God as the believer's Father

- A) He is the best "father" anyone could have.
- B) He knows all about His children, even the hairs on their head (Matthew 10:30).
- C) He **protects His children rescuing them from trouble** (Isaiah 63:15-16).
- D) He **teaches them the way that they should go** (Hosea 11:1-3)
- E) **Supplies all of their needs** (Matthew 6:33 & Philippians 4:19).

In turn the Father expects honor from His children, although He does not always receive it (Malachi 1:6).

## When God's Divine Plan is not Fulfilled, Single-Motherhood

**God becomes a father to the children and husband to the mother** in families where the earthly father is absent. The mother takes the position of head of household and assumes the responsibilities of the earthly father.

God takes particular interest in those who have been abandoned. He says that His cause is for the fatherless and widow, and He is near to them. If the mother will stay close to God, He will be a husband to her and provide for her in every way (Isaiah 54).

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