

## **TITLE: FAMILY PORTRAIT [God's Design For The Family]**

TEXT: Genesis 1: 26-28; Ephesians 3: 14-15; others as specified

DATE: October 2, 2022

B.I.: The Christian Family is designed to portray the Triune God, the True Gospel, and the Thriving Church.

### INTRO:

- October Theme: **FAMILY REUNION**: Consolidating the Family for Jesus
- Big Idea: In this series, Jesus will show us exactly what He wants to accomplish in our family. So let us bring our families together and study and apply these lessons in our lives.
- ***Every Christian Family Has A Special Call From God.*** God has a higher purpose for each family. His desire is for the family to produce spiritually and emotionally mature human beings who, in turn, get the work of God done on the earth.
- A family professing holiness must make *God's* program *their* family program and pursue it diligently and *exclusively*.
- God is the Divine Architect of family, in Genesis 1: 26-27.
- <sup>26</sup>“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”  
<sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” -Genesis 1: 26-27, NIV

### **BODY: God designed the Family To Be:**

#### **I. A PORTRAIT OF THE TRIUNE GOD**

- God wants to display His triune image through the family. Gen. 1:26a, “*Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.*” Our Triune God—Father, Son, and Spirit—made man and woman in His image. A family is a unit on earth that reflects the Godhead's unity in heaven.
- God wants people to see how the Father, Son, and Spirit work together in harmony by looking at the inner workings of the family. The family is the basic unit of the society patterned after the Triune God and should influence the church, the community, and culture.
- ***Our love for, unity with, and likeness to our family bears witness to God's very nature.***

- **Included in the image of God is the ability to possess the attributes of God.** This includes emotions like love, joy, peace, security, kindness, and other positive, God-like qualities.
- God intended for these positive attributes to be nurtured and perpetuated through the relationships and interconnectedness of the human family.
- The family also reflects the image of God in its structure. Just as the Trinity is made up of three Persons in One—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—marriage as God designed it is three persons in one: God, Who is over the husband, who is over the wife.

## II. A PORTRAIT OF THE TRUE GOSPEL

### A. Relationship Is At The Heart Of Both The Gospel And Family.

- The family also provides a profoundly personal portrait of our salvation. In salvation, God adopts us. He makes us His sons and daughters.
- Galatians 4:4-7 says: But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave but a son; God has made you an heir since you are a son.
- **The perfect Son was not ashamed to call us brothers** (Heb. 2:11)!
- The good news of the gospel is that God has a family, and we are invited to become part of it. When we put our faith in Jesus, we are adopted by the Father and become his children.
- God gave us family so we would know what it means when he offers us the great honor of becoming his beloved sons and daughters.

### B. Family Like The Gospel Should Be A Safe Haven For Acceptance.

- Acceptance or a sense of belonging is essential for family and faith. Accepting is a definitive act in which you allow yourself to feel the full range of emotions about your family while remaining both autonomous and in a healthy relationship with your family members.
- Compelling faith talk is as much about listening and receiving as it is about talking and giving.

## III. A PORTRAIT OF THE THRIVING CHURCH

- Finally, the family draws an equally stunning portrait of the church. Peter calls the church the “family of God” (1 Peter 4:17). Paul calls the church “God’s household” (1 Tim. 3:15).

- How is it that we belong to the same household? Because being united to Christ (Eph. 2:1-10) means that we have been united to one another (Eph. 2:11-20), as we have seen, as adopted brothers and sisters.
- Paul tells us that men with children must prove themselves able managers in their own homes before they can be elders in the church (1 Tim. 3:4-5).
- Paul tells all Christians to love our fellow church members as siblings. (Rom. 15:30, 2 Cor. 13:11). (The word for brothers here is gender neutral—it means “siblings.”)
- God-ordained families are to love one another as siblings in the church. We must cultivate the “loving one another” culture among our children so they might better understand what kind of relationships God intends to see among his people.

**CHALLENGE:** The family is designed by God to be a portrait of the Triune God, of the true Gospel, and of the thriving Church. Families are the foundation of society. We know that strong families build strong churches, strong churches build strong communities, and strong communities build strong nations. Let’s consolidate the family for Jesus!

**DISCUSSION:**

- Why did God design the family to be the portrait of the Triune God, the True Gospel, and the Thriving Church? Share.
- How will you resolve to glorify God through your family?
- Assignment: Strengthen your family altar.