**Discipleship in the Home**

*Week 1: The 21st Century Family*

“Our children are falling away because we are asking the church to do what God designed the family to accomplish.”- **Voddie Baucham, Family Driven Faith**

“For the first time in its history, Western civilization is confronted with the need to define the meaning of the terms marriage and family. What until now has been considered a “normal” family, made up of a father, a mother, and a number of children, has in recent years increasingly begun to be viewed as one among several options, which can no longer claim to be the only or even superior form of ordering human relationships. The Judeo-Christian view of marriage and the family with its roots in the Hebrew Scriptures has to a significant extent been replaced with a set of values that prizes human rights, self-fulfillment, and pragmatic utility on an individual or societal level. It can rightly be said that marriage and the family are institutions under siege in our world today, and that with marriage and the family, our very civilization is in crisis.”- **Andreas J. Kostenberger, God, Marriage, and Family**

**The Modern Scene**

**The Media**

*Redefining family-*

*Dysfunctional nuclear family-*

**The Children**

*Between 70 and 80 percent of Christian teens are leaving the church by their second year of college. American Christianity has a failure rate of around 8 or 9 out of 10 when it comes to raising children who will continue in the faith.*

*According to the National Study of Youth and Religion, youth’s religion is very ambiguous, because faith plays such a small part of the family’s’ daily lives and priority.*

**The Parents**

*The priority of most parents is to be sure that their kids…*

*Make the Grade-*

*Make the Team-*

*Making the Time-*

**The Anti-Marriage Culture**

**The Anti-Child Culture**

**What is a “family?**

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**Issues that challenge family relationships:**

**God’s Design for the Family**

**The Old Testament**

*The role of the father-* In the Old Testament, Israelite families were **1) patrilineal**- official descent was traced through the father’s line, **2) patrilocal**- married women became part of their husbands household, **3) patriarchal**- the father was in charge of the household. In other words, the family structure was centered around the father.

***The Following is adapted from Daniel Block’s chapter “Marriage and Family in Ancient Israel” from the book by Ken M. Campbell, Marriage and Family in the Biblical World.***

The primary responsibilities of the father:

-personally modeled strict fidelity to Yahweh

-lead the family in national festivals, nurtured the memory of Israel’s salvation

-instructed the family in the traditions of the exodus and Scriptures

-managing the family land in accordance with the law

-provide for the families basic needs

-defend the household against outside threats

-serve as elder and represents the household in the official assembly of citizens

-maintain family members’ well-being and harmonious operation of the family unit

-implementing decisions made at the clan or tribal level

The fathers’ responsibility towards his sons:

-naming their children (together with his wife)

-consecrate firstborn son to God

-circumcise sons on the eighth day

-delight in, have compassion on, and love their sons

-nurture their sons’ spiritual development, model to them their personal commitment to God and the Scriptures

-instructing them in the Scriptures

-guard their own conduct so as not to draw them into sin

-instruct their sons in the way of wisdom, develop their character, develop their skills

-discipline them when they go astray

-manage the household affairs, especially with regards to inheritance, so as to ensure a smooth transition to the next generation

-prepare them for marriage

-arrange their marriage to a suitable woman

-pronounce blessing on sons prior to their death.

The fathers’ responsibility towards his daughters:

-protect them from male predators so they would marry as virgins

-arrange for daughters marriage by finding a suitable husband

-ensure a measure of security by providing his daughters with a dowry

-provide security for daughters in case their marriage failed

-instruct them in the scriptures

The role and responsibilities of mothers:

-wives and mothers often named their children

-the mother commands respect and honor

-both father and mother rise to the defense of their daughter if her vrignity at the time of her wedding was called into question

-the mother’s wisdom is just as valuable as the father’s wisdom

-the excellent wife of Proverbs 31 takes initiative, is creative, full of energy, helps manage the household, uses her skills to benefit her family, and while subordinate to her husband, she is not subservient to him

-women exercised great influence over their husbands, either for good or for bad

-although excluded from official leadership roles in the community, they were appointed in prophetic roles and participated in religious affairs.

The role and responsibilities of children:

The children had one major responsibility, and that was to honor their father and mother in numerous ways…

-words denoting respect for parents are elsewhere used with reference to reverence for God himself

-respect for parents is the principle of the nation

-the command entails both parents

-the command has no qualification, limitation, or termination

-it carries with it the promise of divine blessing

-contemptible treatment of parents was worthy of death

-Ezekiel cites disrespect for one’s parents as one of the reasons for the fall of Jerusalem

**The New Testament**

The role of fathers:

-bring children up in the discipline and admonition of the Lord

-are not to provoke their children

-bear special responsibility for leading the children

-bring children to maturity and nourish them

The role of mothers:

-childbearing, i.e., upbringing of children and managing the home.

-submit to and respect their husbands leadership in the home

-older women were to mentor the younger women

-have a gentle and quiet spirit

-be self controlled and pure

-her first priority should be the home

The role of children

-Jesus’ ministry shows that children are important

-obey their parents

-honor their father and mother

-show proper respect

-obedience brings blessing

-only regenerate children can fully live this out

-it is to be done unto the Lord