

FBC POWELL, 7-16-17 AM NOTES  
“A Biblical Worldview of Family”  
Various Scriptures  
# 5 in Series, “A Biblical Worldview”

**Isaiah 61:2b-3a (NKJV)** “To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

I. The Reason for the Family

The primary way that the family glorifies God is by becoming a laboratory for sanctification.

**Philippians 2:3-4** “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

**Romans 8:28-29** “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also **predestined** *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren”.

II. The Roles in the Family

“The wife is to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband.”

—*The Baptist Faith and Message*

**Egalitarianism**—Men and women are equal before God and the roles in the Bible reflected the culture at the time the New Testament was written. Egalitarians would say that today in marriage, neither is head, and if there are roles, they are filled based on the abilities, gifting, and personalities of each marriage partner.

**Complementarianism**—The roles in marriage are not tied to culture, but to creation. While men and women are equal before God, there is a difference in roles.

A. The Role of the Wife

**Ephesians 5:22-23** “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”

**Galatians 3:28** “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

## B. The Role of the Husband

**Ephesians 5:25** “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

“Most men date in order to marry, when the biblical principle is marry in order to date. Most men shower a woman with love to get her to say ‘I do.’ But the Biblical ideal is to have her say ‘I do,’ so we can spend the rest of our lives showering her with love.”  
—Tony Evans

**1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)** “Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

## C. The Role of Parents

### 1. Train Your Children

**Luke 2:52** “And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

### 2. Model for Your Children

## D. The Role of Singles

### 1. Be Content Being Single

**Philippians 4:11b (ESV)** “...I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.”

**1 Corinthians 7:32-33** “But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife.”

### 2. Look to the Lord to Meet Your Needs

**Colossians 2:10a** “And in Him you have been made complete...”

**First Baptist Church Powell 07 16 17 AM**  
**Sermon 5: A Biblical Worldview of Family**

**Various Scriptures**

Dr. D. James Kennedy gives us this definition of worldview: “A worldview is a set of assumptions or presuppositions that determine the way we look at the world and our place in the world. These then largely determine how we consider everything that comes down the path.” [D. James Kennedy, *Lord of All, Developing a Christian World and-Life View*, page 11]

Sadly, most people have never thought about or really examined their worldview. The result is that many people who consider themselves Christians have a very unbiblical worldview. The motive behind this series is that you would begin to examine and think deeply about your worldview, that you would see that the only worldview based on truth is the biblical worldview, and that you would choose to have a consistent, thoroughly biblical world view in every area of life.

Thus far in this series, we have looked at a biblical worldview overview, a biblical worldview of origins, authority, and man. In this message, we will focus on a biblical worldview of family.

There is no doubt that our culture is diligently seeking to normalize that which is opposite of a biblical worldview of family. This is truly tragic! “Consider these statistics: Children in single-parent families are six times more likely to be poor, and half of the single mothers in the United States live below the poverty line. Children of divorce suffer intense grief, which often lasts for many years. Even as young adults, they are nearly twice as likely to require psychological help. Children from disrupted families have more academic and behavioral problems at school and are nearly twice as likely to drop out of high school. Girls in single-parent homes are at much greater risk for precocious sexuality and are three times more likely to have a child out of wedlock.” [Chuck Colson, *How Now Shall We Live?* page 323]

Please hear my heart! The last thing that I want to do is lay an even heavier load of guilt on some who have been through some of these things we are talking about. But I must proclaim how vital it is that we return to a biblical worldview of the family. I would remind those that are suffering in this area that the church is not a place where perfect or even almost perfect people are the only ones welcomed. The church is a place where hurting people come to know our God – the one true God who loves you, who forgives you, and who specializes in taking things that are broken and marred and makes something beautiful from them. Isaiah 61:2b-3a (NKJV): “To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” If we knew the truth, every one of us are in desperate need of God’s grace and if we are walking in victory, we can only boast in His grace.

With that background, let’s look at a biblical worldview of family.

**I. The Reason for the Family**

The family did not just evolve; the family was God’s idea from the beginning. The ultimate reason that God established the family was to glorify Himself. That means that the family puts God’s attributes and perfections on display; it spotlights His beauty and worth. There is no institution on earth that has such a tremendous opportunity to glorify God as does the family. The primary way that the family glorifies God is by becoming *a laboratory for sanctification*.

Let me explain what I mean by that. As a college student, I had to take a year of science for my major. I chose Zoology. Here is how the class was taught. We would go two days a week to a lecture by the professor. There would also be lengthy reading assignments from the textbook and we had to take good notes from the lecture. But in addition, every week we went to Zoology Lab. In the laboratory, we did hands on work to see the material we studied actually applied. For instance, we had a whole section on genetics and then in the laboratory, we carried out some rather involved experiments with fruit flies and learned about their recessive and dominant genes. In somewhat the same way, we have the textbook for glorifying God, called the Bible. There are “lectures” every Sunday morning and evening, and classes on Wednesday evenings, to help you understand it. There are several laboratories where you put what you learned into practice. There is the laboratory of your thought life, your ministry through the local church, your job or school, but the main laboratory where the truths you have learned from the “textbook” are lived out is the family.

As I stated earlier, the family is a laboratory for the sanctification of believers. What is sanctification? The word literally means “to set apart.” The doctrine of sanctification (as it applies to believers) means this: When you become a Christian, you are set apart immediately from the ultimate penalty of sin (eternal separation from God in a place the Bible calls hell). Your sin is forgiven. While we are immediately set apart from the penalty of sin, we progressively are set apart from the power of sin. One day when Christ returns we will go to be with Him through death, we will be set apart from the very presence of sin.

When it comes to sanctification and the family, I am focusing on that progressive, ongoing part of sanctification –being set free from the power of sin. What we are talking about is growing in spiritual maturity, in Christ-likeness. Through the family – the relationship between a husband and a wife, the relationship between parents and children, and even the relationships with extended family, we have the opportunity to grow in spiritual maturity; to be progressively conformed to the likeness of Christ and thereby glorifying God.

The default mode of our flesh (the self-life) is to be narcissistic. Let me define that word. Narcissism is being self-absorbed. When a person walks after the flesh, the three most important persons in life are me, myself, and I. That’s the tendency, the flesh mode in every member of the family. “I have wants and needs and I want my needs and wants satisfied.” In a family (whether it is a single adult, a husband and wife, parents and their biological or adopted children, a blended family, or a single parent family), flesh fueled narcissism always leads to conflict and misery. Let me give you the opposite of narcissism. It is found in Philippians 2:3-4: “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” The way of life described in these two verses is not our default mode; it is not the way that comes naturally. It is the way that comes supernaturally through our sanctification.

Often a husband or wife will say, “My spouse just rubs me the wrong way!” Maybe it is because you have a lot of rough un-Christ-like edges that need rubbing off! A teenager says, “I am so sick of them telling me everything to do.” Could it be that God is teaching you to submit to the authority He has ordained over your life? “My Mother-in-law drives me crazy!” Perhaps God is teaching you to love supernaturally with His kind of love (agape love). Perhaps in a home in which a single adult lives alone, he/she says, “I desperately want to be married” or “I don’t know if I can continue to resist temptation to fulfill my desires in a way that is against Scripture.” God is developing the fruit of the Spirit called “self-control” which is the bringing under His control all natural desires. Do you get the picture? If there were no challenges in the family, we wouldn’t grow, we wouldn’t be conformed to the likeness of Christ, we wouldn’t have the un-Christ-like

edges rubbed off of our lives. In families, it is inevitable that we get offended and wronged. When are we more like Christ than when we forgive?

Do you see how the family is one of God's primary tools to bring about our sanctification, our spiritual maturity. God is determined to conform every true child of His to the likeness of Christ. He is so determined that He says that He has predestined it to be so. Listen to Romans 8:28-29: "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also *predestined to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren." Here is the tragedy. When we rebel against the instrument that God is using to break us of our flesh fueled narcissism, God just raises up another instrument. A couple can't get along and so they divorce. If you are God's child, that is, you love Him and have been called by Him, then He just raises up another instrument, and the second instrument is usually harsher than the first. If a child rebels against his/her parents, God just raises up another instrument – usually harsher than the parents. It may be the military, the prison system, or any number of other things. We had a young man in our church several years ago that had some problems with his parents telling him what he could and could not do. He said, "I'm sick of them telling me what I can and cannot do, so as soon as I am eighteen, I'm joining the Marine Corps." He did!

To summarize, from a biblical worldview, the main reason God ordained the family is to glorify Himself by allowing the challenges and failures within the family relationships to conform us to Christ so that His attributes might be magnified in our life. That is certainly not the only reason God ordained the family, but it is a prominent reason.

## II. The Roles in the Family

It is impossible to see and understand the biblical worldview of family apart from understanding the God ordained roles within the family. WARNING! A biblical worldview of the roles in the family is as "counter cultural" as you can get. The culture around us at times even becomes hostile to the biblical worldview of marriage. I remember several years ago our denomination received a vicious backlash from the world – the culture that leaves God out. What incited this vicious backlash was a clarification that was adopted of our doctrinal statement called, *The Baptist Faith and Message*. When it came to the role of the wife in a marriage the statement said this: "The wife is to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband." When that hit the national media, it all broke loose! I remember a cartoon in *Newsweek Magazine* that pictured a caveman with a club in one hand and with the other hand he had a woman by her hair as he drug her behind him. The caption said, "Must be a Southern Baptist" Is telling a wife that she is "...to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband" oppressing her, demeaning her, or as some would go so far as to say *abusing her*?

Let's examine what the Bible says about the roles in marriage. When it comes to the roles of the husband and the wife, there are two prominent views. First, there is *egalitarianism*. This view says that men and women are equal before God and the roles in the Bible reflected the culture at the time the New Testament was written. Egalitarians would say that today in marriage, neither is head, and if there are roles, they are filled based on the abilities, gifting, and personalities of each marriage partner. Second, there is *complementarianism*. This approach to Scripture says that the roles are not tied to culture but to creation. While men and women are equal in worth before God, there is a difference in roles. To put it another way, there is sameness in worth but a difference in roles or function. Without apology or trying to water anything down, we are

complementarian in our approach to the roles in marriage. A biblical worldview of marriage must see a clear distinction in the role of the husband and the wife.

### **A. The Role of the Wife**

The role of the wife is revealed in Ephesians 5:22-23: “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything” (also in Colossians 3:18).

The word “subject” or “submit” is the focus of the controversy. The word translated “submit” or “subject” literally means to line up under authority. It was primarily a military word. Just as a lower ranking soldier is not inferior to the one over him, even so the wife is not inferior to her husband. Order in all of society is dependent upon submission to God-ordained authority. The alternative is anarchy! God desires order. His creation is ordered; there is order in His plan for government; there is order in His church, and there is order in the family. God placed the husband as the leader and told the wife to voluntarily put herself under her husband’s leadership. Submission is not about equality. The Bible speaks to equality before God in Galatians 3:28: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” In other words, just as Jews and Gentiles stand equal before God, just as slaves and free stand equal before God, even so men and women are equal. Submission (subjection) is not about worth, gifting, or abilities. A woman’s submission does not apply to all men, only her husband. Submission is not without limits. A wife does not submit to her husband’s demand for her to violate a direct command of God. There is never going to be an ideal situation where submission is easy and without challenge, but this is God’s order and if it is violated, the family suffers.

### **B. The Role of the Husband**

Ephesians 5:25: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” Tony Evans has a good word about this love by a husband. “Most men date in order to marry, when the biblical principle is marrying in order to date. Most men shower a woman with love to get her to say, ‘I do.’ But the Biblical ideal is to have her say ‘I do,’ so we can spend the rest of our lives showering her with love.” [Tony Evans, *What a Way to Live*, page 204]

This love is not primarily emotional though it certainly involves the emotions. We are given a picture of what this love looks like in the daily grind of married life in 1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV): “Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Here is what a husband’s love to his wife looks like.

First, he spends time with her (“Husbands, likewise dwell with them”). The word dwell means to make a home with. It speaks of sharing your life with her. That involves communicating and sharing what’s going on in your life.

Second, loving your wife means that you study her so that you can “dwell with [her] with understanding.” That means you learn what she likes and doesn’t like, her strengths and weaknesses, her expectations, her areas that need your patience until God changes her, etc.

Third, you love your wife by honoring her. The word “honor” means to give respect to, to consider as weighty, and valuing her opinions, wisdom, insights.

Fourth, loving your wife means that you protect her (“as to the weaker vessel”). The word “weaker” carries the idea of “delicate.” God is the one the wife must ultimately look to, but the channel God often uses to give her victory over fear is her husband.

Fifth, do things together (“being heirs together of the grace of life”). That means that you share in her delights even if it’s something like bird watching or shopping for antiques. That kind of love pleases God and removes hindrances to your prayers being answered.

### **C. The Role of Parents**

There was a time when parents were helped in their task by the culture. Those days are almost completely gone. Moral instruction in the public educational system has largely been legislated away and ruled out of bounds by warped legal decisions in the courts. Godly public-school teachers often have their hands tied. The parents today carry a very heavy load. The responsibility of parents under a biblical worldview is two-fold.

#### **1. Train Your Children**

Training includes teaching, but it also involves discipline to see that the teaching is followed. Teaching without discipline is not very effective with most children. It is not the primary responsibility of the church, the school or any other institution to train your child. It is the parent’s responsibility. The school and church can help but the responsibility falls squarely on the shoulder of the parents. What are the areas that we are to train them in? A good outline is the four categories that Jesus grew in.

**Luke 2:52:** “And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” *Wisdom* is seeing life from God’s perspective. Train your children in understanding God’s perspective of their purpose for existence, what is right and wrong, what it means to be a sinner and God’s plan for reconciling sinners to Himself, the value of work, and really all that we’re covering in a biblical worldview.

*Stature* is their physical life. Train them concerning their bodies, physical fitness, nutrition, and how their body is a vessel dedicated to God’s glory.

*Favor with God* involves training them about salvation and then how to please God through obedience and moment by moment trust.

*Favor with man* involves social skills such as manners, true masculinity, true femininity, respect for authority, compassion toward the hurting, and so many other social skills. Remember, it is not just sharing facts; it is working in through repeated instruction, rewards for applying what they have been taught, and age appropriate discipline when they ignore instruction.

#### **2. Model for Your Children**

Remember the concept of the home being a laboratory? They need not only to be instructed in wisdom, physical matters, pleasing God, and social skills; they need to see it modeled in their parents’ lives. If you teach them what you don’t practice, it often leads to bitterness and hardness of heart on the part of the children.

### **D. The Role of Singles**

I realize that it seems that I have pretty much left out singles, but actually the biblical worldview for singles in relation to the family is easy to explain. Singles must resolve two things:

#### **1. Be Content being Single**

**Philippians 4:11b (ESV):** “...I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.” When a single adult hinges future contentment on finding a spouse, they are opening themselves up for a

negative, discontented now and a disastrous marriage for the future. There are many advantages to being single. Don't always focus on what you're missing. Enjoy the blessings of being single. 1 Corinthians 7:32-33: "But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife". Many of the greatest missionaries were single (Lottie Moon, Amy Carmichael, David Brainerd, William Borden, and so many more).

## **2. Look to the Lord to Meet Your Needs**

Colossians 2:10a: "and in Him you have been made complete..." The desire for companionship and marital relations is not wrong. I don't want to be trite, but God is sufficient to give you grace to say no to satisfying a legitimate desire in an illegitimate way. He will draw close in your loneliness and be to you a friend that sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).

## **Conclusion**

A biblical worldview covers every aspect of our lives. How does your family line up with the biblical worldview?