

## Doctrine of the Family

### The Purpose of the Family in Covenant

1. It is right to decry the state of the family in secular society. What is better is to understand the purpose of the family in covenant.
2. Surprisingly enough, the first malediction God spoke following creation week had to do with the family. It had nothing to do with the serpent.
  - *Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*
3. There are reasons why man should not be alone, according to worldly, and fleshly wisdom.
  - Man would be lonely.
  - Man needs companionship.
  - Man (who is from “Mars”) and thus warlike, needs someone from “Venus” to calm him down and balance his nature.
  - Man needs intimacy.
  - Man needed better self-esteem, for he felt inadequate surrounded by nature.
4. Adam was not complaining, however. It was God’s idea that Adam not be alone. It was God’s idea to make someone comparable and compatible to him. Adam did not need a friend, a lover, or better self-esteem. Adam needed a helper.
5. The reason Adam needed was not because he needed a better environment, or because he was going to get lost and need someone to ask for directions.
6. Adam needed a helper in order to replenish the earth, subdue it, and have dominion over it.
  - *Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 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.*
7. This was God’s covenant with Adam. Adam was given the Dominion Mandate prior to the Fall. This is one reason why men want to go out and challenge, and dominate, and conquer.

#### ***Special Note.***

What women want is intimacy, because that is the way they are made. What could be more intimate, or more romantic than having a shared vision of the reign of Jesus Christ?

8. After the Fall, Adam and Eve still retained the Dominion Mandate.
9. Children were born to Adam and Eve. Civilization grew. The world became wicked to the point that God destroyed it with the flood. But then came the Dominion Mandate afresh.
  - *Genesis 8:15 And God spake unto Noah, saying, 16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. 17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.*
10. There is a change in the Dominion Mandate from when it was originally given, due to the Fall. The Mandate is now exercised within the context of perpetual warfare.
11. Instead of exercising the Mandate peacefully, and with God's blessing, there is conflict. Adam accused God of giving to him a woman that was not good for him. The woman accuses the serpent of deceiving her. All of creation is suddenly blood red, tooth and claw.
  - The serpent is at war with God. *Genesis 3:14 And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*
  - The woman desires to rule over the man. *Genesis 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*
  - The man is in conflict with nature. *Genesis 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*
12. The Dominion Mandate finds a new way of being expressed by Christ in the Gospel Mandate. It is to seek to spread the kingdom of God.
  - *Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
13. The purpose for marriage is to fulfill the Gospel Mandate of seeking first the kingdom of God. Rather than do this, the church seeks to beat the world at its own game of offering more joy, more happiness, more intimacy in the marriage relationship.

14. Marriage is not about self-fulfillment. Marriage is not about self getting needs met. It is about fulfilling a God given mandate to dominate, and fill the earth for God's glory.
15. When the purpose of God is made the focus of the marriage, then every detail, including the mundane ones, take on a new dimension. The diapers are changed for the glory of God. The floors are vacuumed for the glory of God. The unity of labor is for the glory of God.
16. Here then is a great and grand principle that enhances the concept of "Coram Deo". To "living before the face of God", the heart of the Christian lives to advance the kingdom of God, in small ways, and in large. The home is nothing less than the Garden of Eden in miniature to be nurtured and cared for.
17. The children are to be brought up in covenant relationship in order to manifest and advance the reign of Christ in the present. When children obey, when they are polite and say, "Thank you", the children are heirs of the kingdom, which is pleasing to God. They too are being taught to seek first the kingdom of God's dear Son.