

Family Responsibility

We will give priority to fulfilling family responsibilities to preserving the sanctity of marriage, and to maintaining divine order in the home.

- A. **Priority of the Family**: The family is the basic unit of human relationship and as such is foundational to both society and the church. The divine origin of the family, along with its foundational character, makes it essential that we give priority to the family, both from a personal and corporate standpoint.

1. **The principles of marriage**:

- I. **Leaving: (Genesis 2:18-24, Mathew 19:5, Mark 10-7)** Marriage cannot grow and develop so long as no real clear separation from one's family takes place. There must be a clean and clear cut of both from previous life. Both have to leave not only the man.
 - II. **Cleaving (uniting)**: You cannot unite unless you leave. And you cannot leave unless you decide to unite.
 - III. **Becoming one**: Husband and wife share everything they have, not only their bodies, not only their material things, but also their thinking, their feelings, their joy and their sufferings, their hopes and their fears, their success and their failure. They are becoming one in marriage: **One Spirit, (Hebrews 4:16)** Both turn to God in complete dependence. **One Soul, (Malachi 2: 14-15, Romans 15:7, Ephesians 4:32)** Commitment to minister to one another. **One Body (1Corinthians 7:3-6)** Commitment to give body (sexual) excitement and satisfaction to each other. Body oneness is the expression of spirit and soul oneness, and is God's plan for total oneness.
2. **Preparation for Godly marriage: (Genesis 2:8-25)** Before we approve marriage the following should be observed:
- I. **A proper set up or place for living: (Genesis 2:8)**
 - II. **A proper Income: (Genesis 2:15)**
 - III. **A proper resources to sustain the proper place of living: (Genesis 2:10-14)**
 - IV. **A Proper understanding of who God is and what His word teaches: (Genesis 2:16-17)**
 - V. **A Proper understanding of God's purpose for marriage is to have Godly offspring: (Malachi 2:15a)**
 - VI. **A Proper thought for marriage to be fulfilled in God's time: God will give the right partner at His proper time (Genesis 2:18).**
 - VII. **Maturity is need before marriage** : A proper responsibility, and level of maturity for the man should be checked before marriage **(Genesis 2:19-20).**
 - VIII. **A real need for a suitable partner would be raise up to help the man in his life unto God:** A suitable helper is a post that needed to be filled by God only. The Scripture do not speak about courting or dating, or making boy friend or girl friend as a way for marriage. God is the one to make and arrange the suitable helper and bring to man on His time **(Genesis 2:21-23).**
 - IX. **A family formed by God can manage their life independently well: (Genesis 2:24)**
 - X. **We as a church we officiate marriages only for our workers who abide with God's word and choice:** Those who do their own, we are not called to officiate or bless their marriages.

3. **The practice of Christian disciplines and virtues should begin in the home (Deuteronomy 6:6-9):** Parents are responsible to teach their children the Word of God.
4. **Establish some pattern for family devotions and worship:** Each family should be encouraged to engage in service at least once a day, and at a time most convenient to the household, and that the parents should see that every child is taught as early as possible to give reverence to God and to his parents, by listening quietly and attentively to the reading of God's word and getting down on his knees during prayer.
5. **Provide a Christian environment in the home (1 Timothy 3:4-5; 1 Timothy 5:8).** The parents as royal priesthood over their families are required to raise their children in the fear of the Lord, **(Proverbs 22:6)** Parents they need to love, care and provide for their children shelter and food and raise them up in the fear of the Lord. Parents they should give big portion of their time to care and to love their children and show them kindness and direct them how to live their lives and describe to them their duties and their responsibilities and prepare them for the future. Parents as priests should keep the right and joyful fellowship atmosphere in the house, **(Ephesians 6:5)** But Parents should not allow certain entertainment that causes children to learn bad things and cause them to fall in sin. Only holy things the children should allow to enjoy with and spend their leisure time inside the house. Parents should choose to the children what they will watch, listen and read, and even to choose to them the toy they should play with. The parents should be firm with the children because every child has foolishness and the way of taking it out from the child is through discipline by a rod, **(Proverbs 22:15)** The rod should be used in the home to keep children in the right way of life, **(Proverbs 29:15,17)**

B. Sanctity of Marriage: Marriage is ordained of God and is a divine spiritual union in which a man and a woman are joined by God to live together as one. Sexual involvement either before marriage or with someone other than the marriage partner is strictly prohibited in Scripture **(Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-18).**

1. **Marriage is a lifelong commitment:** Living together with the children **(Matthew 19:6, Mark 10:9)**
2. **Divorce or divorce and remarriage is a matter that Scripture hardly agree about it.** Such thing we should not approve **(Matthew 19:7-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2,3; 1 Corinthians 7:2,10,11,39).**
3. **Should a Christian desire to remain single, this decision should be respected and should be seen as a viable Scriptural alternative (1 Corinthians 7: 7, 8-9, 32-34)**

C. Divine Order in the Home: When God created man; He created them male and female **(Genesis 1:27).**

1. **He gave them distinctly different characteristics (1 Corinthians 11:14,15) and physical differences (1 Peter 3:7).**
2. **Man and Woman have different responsibilities (Genesis 2: 15,18, 20; 3:16-19; 1 Corinthians 7:3 Ephesians 5:25-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7).**
3. **In God's order the husband is head of the home (Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18,19) to lead the family.**
4. **Parents are to nurture and admonish their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).**
5. **Children are to obey and honour their parents (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20).**

In order for harmony to exist in the home, God's order of responsibility must be observed.