

One (of several) qualifications for being an effective godly pastor or leader.

Paul instructs Timothy in I Timothy 3:4 & 5, “He must manage his own family well, with children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church?”

As a pastor & church leader in today’s society, you face the disintegration of the family as God established it.

Are you ready to be a godly example on how to have a godly family and are you ready to instruct your churches on how to have a godly family?

Let us look at some of the ways you can manage your family and church God’s way.

IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

AND GOD SAID TO THEM, “Be fruitful and multiply.”

Alarming poor family value system

Dysfunctional families are under financed, under principled, under loved, under disciplined and spiritually void of any relationship or at best a vague relationship with God, their creator. There is a lot of abuse, drunkenness, drug use, sexual immorality. There is a lack of respect, and a lack of appreciation for authority.

What is causing the disintegration of the family?

1. Lack of purpose discussed & decided before couple get married.
2. Busyness
3. Time not used wisely
4. Isolation due to modern technology
5. Parents do not have a model for parenting skills and attitudes
6. Other things, such as job, sports, TV, hobbies, etc. take priority, ambition to get wealthy.
7. Parents do not know how to deal with disagreements, so anger and bitterness take over.
8. Desire to have sex without marriage, without commitment, and without responsibility for a spouse, children, or society.
9. More and more people, and nations, are questioning the institution of marriage.
10. Religion, education, science, and society do not understand the proper purpose of marriage and are ignoring God's purpose and plan for marriage.

Impact of disintegrated families on society

1. Society becomes confused when a marriage is no longer considered between a man and a woman. Sex outside of marriage becomes the norm. Children are deeply affected when parents separate.
2. Individualism impacts society because people only want to satisfy themselves.
3. Material minded couples or live ins do not want children, which may upset their plans, jobs, wealth.
4. Our institutions are full of people with multiple problems & drain the budget of a community & nation.

Is there a solution? If so, what?

Yes, there is a solution!

1. Base your solution on the authority of the Bible. Study God's Word.
2. Develop positive, healthy, Biblical values on how to treat each other.
3. If not married, establish & commit to pure dating.
4. If engaged to be married, discuss how you will live and use you life for God.
- 5, If married, review your relationship with each other, with God, with your family & begin to make any changes necessary.
3. Honor one another. Recognize you are stewards of your spouse & God will hold you responsible for the way you treated your spouse.
4. Study & talk with successful families on how you can have a happy family God's way.
5. Participate & vocalize your beliefs in a local church & community.

We ask:

How did the family get started?
How does it work?
Does a family have a proper form?
Is it necessary for the welfare of men,
women, children, churches, communities, a
nation and the world?

How does God define family?

What the Bible says about marriage?

1. Genesis 2:18-24 Marriage is God's idea.
2. Genesis 24:58-60 Commitment is essential to a successful marriage.
3. Song of Songs 4:9,10 Romance is important.
4. Jeremiah 33:10,11 Marriage holds times of great joy.
5. Malachi 2:14,15 Marriage creates the best environment for raising children.
6. Matthew 5:32 Unfaithfulness breaks the bond of trust, the foundation of all relationships.
7. Matthew 19:6 Marriage is permanent.
8. Romans 7:2,3 Only death should dissolve marriage.
9. Ephesians 5:23-33 Marriage is not based on feelings, but commitment.
10. Ephesians 5:23,32 Marriage is a living symbol of Christ and the church.
11. Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is good and honorable.
12. Proverbs 2:16-20 A good man/woman will ask God for wisdom/discretion in their behavior toward each other.

How marriage began

1. After God created man, he needed a companion to meet his needs. Woman's role is to be a companion and helper to man. Ch.2:18-20 She meets his spiritual, emotional, social and physical needs.
2. God provided woman for man. Ch.2:21-24 God did this by having him go to sleep and then taking a part of his body to make her. This became known as the universal law of marriage. The responsibility of marriage is on the man's shoulders. He is responsible to keep the union together. This union is to be permanent.
3. Genesis recognizes the state of the first man and woman. Vs.25 This verse shows sex was God's idea and not sinful. There was no shame in their nakedness as a husband and wife until after the fall. Sex came before the fall. Sex is necessary for the birth of children. It also provides intimate love between the husband and wife. It is to prevent immorality.

What brings disillusionment in a marriage

Recognize there is no perfect marriage. We see this early in history.

Adam & Eve Cain & Abel Abraham & Sarah Isaac & Rebecca Jacob & Leah

To be human is to be flawed. Let's look at some of those flaws.

1. Nagging criticism

We think it will keep attention off of our own faults. Christ tells us to deal with our own sins before trying to help someone else. Mt. 7:1-5

2. Anger

Anger attacks lead to insecurity in a marriage. Eph. 4:31

3. Self-centeredness

We assume when we get married, that our spouse is going to care for us. It can be disillusioning to a spouse when all our spouse wants to think of is themselves. It is contrary to God's ways.

4. Irritating behaviors

A spouse feels vulnerable, undermined, and endangered when our supposedly best friend treats us like this. A spouse feels unloved when treated insensibly either public or privately.

5. Emotional dishonesty

Disillusionment appears in every marriage. It is inevitable. Self protection results in a lack of truth, love, & a growing distance & coolness that leads to deeper feelings of hopelessness.

How can we overcome this disillusionment?

1. Our disillusionment can become the doorway to fulfillment if we will face it honestly.
2. Marriage will not take away anger, our irritating behavior, our nagging criticism, our self centeredness, or our emotional dishonesty.
3. We must let our marital disappointment help us evaluate our relationship with God.
3. When we are in a right relationship with our creator & redeemer, then we will be in a better position to face the disillusionment in our marriage.
4. We need to recognize that our fulfillment, contentment, protection, & security comes through Christ. Then we will be free to love & submit to one another.
5. That is why we have the gospel. It is all about redemption & will make a positive difference in overcoming disillusionments.
5. It will help us realize we have an interdependent relationship with each other.

What is the pattern for a healthy marriage?

1. Marriage starts with the natural attraction of a man & woman which eventually leads to a desire for sexual satisfaction and marriage.
2. Although physical intimacy is one of your deepest expressions of love, another very important one that will bond you together like no other, start praying with each other.
3. Start your first night or day together with prayer. It will enrich and strengthen your marriage relationship.
4. Be open about confessing your sins audible to God before your spouse and asking forgiveness.
5. Express your joys audibly to God.
6. Ask God for wisdom as you start your marriage together.

What is a pattern for a healthy preparation for marriage?

1. Marriage starts with the natural attraction of a man & woman, which eventually leads to a desire for sexual intimacy and marriage.
2. Determine to keep yourself pure during your dating experience.
3. Ask God to give you His guidelines & protection during your dating experience.
4. Although the physical intimacy of sex is one of the deepest expressions of love, a man and woman need to avoid emotional & physical entanglement that could create frustration, anxiety, resentment & guilt.
5. Determine to wait until marriage for sexual intimacy, at which time, you will be free to totally free to enjoy each other as God intended.

10 guidelines for a healthy marriage

1. Lifelong commitment I Corinthians 7:1-5 Your commitment to each other will see you through all kinds of challenges, sickness, and disappointments, plus joys and successes.
2. See yourselves as one. A new union, a new family. Realize both of you come from different backgrounds, different habits, different parents, different educations, different personalities, and different emotional scars, different personalities. To become one is a process that will take time to mature. Both of you will need patience, be forgiving, express your love often.
3. Be true to each other sexually. Faithfulness will require that you save your hearts and sex for each other. You will remain loyal to each other. You will not seek comfort from someone else.
4. You will love each other with an unreserved love, which means you will honor & consider each other's welfare above your own. I Corinthians 13 gives you a Biblical pattern to follow. Read it, study each element of love to see how you can apply it.
5. Ephesians 5:21, tells us to submit one to the other. This mutual spirit & love go together in a marriage relationship. A spouse does not just take, but gives. You serve, you help each other when your spouse is tired or is hurting.

10 guidelines for a healthy marriage

6. Sexual fulfillment. God created this wonderful intimacy for a husband & wife to enjoy in physical fulfillment. It protects you from sexual diseases & protects your faithfulness to each other. Proverbs 5:15-19 tells us it is enjoyable. You can also expect this continuing pleasure from each other. I Corinthians 7:3,4.
7. Open communication. Understand that husbands & wives think differently. A man is interested in facts & ideas. A woman is interested in feelings. Both should feel free to talk openly and honestly with each other, not in anger or frustration. Pray with each other about the issues you want to talk about: ideas, proposals, problems, concerns.
8. Ephesians 4:31,32, challenge us to have a tender respect for each other, not only in public but also privately. Read I Peter 3:5-7 about instructions he gives to husbands and wives on how to be tender with each other.
9. Spiritual companionship. They pray for each other, they read the Bible together, they encourage one another's faith, they both seek to do the will of God, they worship God together. By doing so, they will be drawn closer to each other.

How did the family get started?

It was God's idea. God gave marriage as a gift to Adam and Eve as the start of the human race. Marriage was not just for convenience, nor was it brought about by any culture. It was instituted by God and has four aspects.

1. The man leaves his father and mother and in a public act, promises himself to his wife.
2. The man and woman are joined together by taking responsibility for each other's welfare and by loving each other above all others.
3. The two become one flesh in the intimacy and commitment of sexual union that is reserved for marriage.
4. There can be no more wonderful physical blessing in this mortal human life than a happy marriage, based on true love, honor, integrity, and faithfulness, especially when there are growing children to love, to care for, & to teach, in the nurture and admonition of our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Let's look at the parent's responsibility to each other & the children.

The qualities of a healthy marriage and family

1. Recognize you come from different backgrounds.
2. Assess which differences are important enough to challenge & change.
3. Ask God to show you how you can develop a healthy marriage & family.
4. You need to see the reason for family within a world setting.
5. You need to make family your top priority.
6. Family members need to respect one another.
7. A sense of safety is realized when there is grace, and forgiveness.
8. Healthy development is realized when there is a balance between obedience by the children and love expressed in times of discipline by the parents.
9. The family will delight in doing things together, playing, working, training. These provide joy, laughter and release any tensions.
10. A balanced family will care about the world around them and participate in serving others within the family, their friends, their community, their nation, and their world.

A healthy family needs to incorporate certain essential habits

1. Read your Bible and pray together as a family.
2. Parents, take your children to church and participate in church activities.
3. Eat as many meals together in a day as possible & discuss issues around the table.
4. Parents, let your children see you do kind things for your spouse, for them & others.
5. Praise your spouse and children and show them that you love them.
6. Work together, play together, read together, entertain together.
7. Be willing to overlook mistakes as an expression of love and forgiveness.
8. Look for an opportunity to lead your child to Christ.

Role of the husband

1. He is to be the head of his wife, to love and honor her. This does not mean that he is superior. His leadership is to be functional.
2. He is to be the steward of his wife and will give accountability to God for the way he treats her.
3. He will initiate the training of the children.
4. He is the spiritual leader of the home.
5. He is to be a servant leader.
6. He will communicate with her in every aspect of his life. Money, jobs, vacations, time alone.
7. Be ready to forgive without harboring bad feelings and hurts. Open communication prevents arguments. Always be open, honest, transparent, loving, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Not only will he satisfy her sexual needs and emotional needs, but he will also protect her and provide for her. He needs to discipline and balance the use of his time. Do not harbor anger and bitterness.

Role of the Wife

Her role is described in I Peter 3:1-6 and in Proverbs 31.

1. She accepts the authority of her husband. This does not include men in general. This does not mean the wife is by nature inferior to the husband in marriage. In marriage the man and wife become one in intellect, emotions, and will. But to keep their special union from fracturing and destroying itself, one member is to be in charge to lead and one to submit.
 2. Wives can enjoy their position when they submit thoughtfully & wisely to his leadership.
 3. She is to be her husband's help mate.
 4. She is to pray for their husband.
 5. She needs to realize, that she completes her husband.
 6. She is to encourage him & support him in his God given role & responsibility.
 7. Do not harbor unforgiveness and bitterness. It only breeds anxiety, depression & stress. Ask God to help you to show you how to forgive yourself, and others.
- Behind every good man is a good wife. The greatest thing a wife can do is to be a stay at home mom while the children are young. If the family needs extra money, she can investigate about having a job at home.

The role of the parents

Fathers and mothers are God's home authority for bringing children into the world and being his stewards in developing them during their childhood.

1. The parents need to agree on how they are going to be good stewards of the children God gave them.
2. Both parents are to be obeyed. And honored equally by their children.
3. Parental responsibility has a negative and a positive aspect.
 - A. Parents are not to over discipline in such a way, that the child will be terrified when he knows he is going to be disciplined, which will result in a bitter angry, hostile child.
 - B. The positive side to your responsibility is to follow the discipline and instruction as approved by the Lord. How can you do that?
 1. Parenting is a continuous job as long as they are dependent on you, so they will become the adults God wants them to be.
 2. Parenting is to be a loving job. Our children should be the object of tender, loving care. After you have disciplined them, let them know you love them.
 3. You will nurture them by providing for them physically, mentally, academically, and spiritually. Parents who do not nurture and discipline their children, are themselves undisciplined individuals.

God's prescription for raising children

Proverbs 22 There are two stages of raising children. 1. The method: Teach your children to choose the right path. 2. The results: When they are older, they will remain in your teaching. The method involves three parts.

1. The concept of training. **Teach.** Teaching includes three ideas: **Dedication** Deuteronomy 20:5 Since God makes you a steward, It includes your responsibility to train your child. You start by dedicating your child to God. **Instruction** You instruct your child so they can learn everything essential in pleasing God. That is to accept Christ as Saviour. To read, study, memorize, be obedient to the Word of God. **Motivation** Parents are to create a taste to be internally motivated to do what God wants Him to do.

2. The child is the recipient of your training. As long as your child is your dependent, he is to be the recipient of your training.

3. The content fo the training. That is to choose the right path. At each stage of development, the parents, or guardians, are to dedicate, instruct, and motivate the child to do what God has best equipped them to do for Him.

Usually godly training results in godly adults. It takes persistent, careful, godly parenting to produce adult children whose Christian faith and commitment are unwavering and solid.

Some gifts to give to your children

1. Give them your example Let them learn more from your life than from your words. Let them see how you handle your problems and challenges of life. You teach them character by your example, honesty, patience, self control & compassion. Proverbs 20:7 The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.

2. Give them your unconditional love. You can do this with your kisses, hugs, touch, Your sympathy when hey are hurting. They need a father's love & firmness. After disciplining them, show them that you love them, in spite of their actions. Proverbs chapter 4 is full of instructions from a father to his son.

3. Give them constant encouragement. Praise them wisely, not because of their achievements, but because of their efforts. By doing so, you are affirming your child with a blessing that will stand him in good stead as an adult. Read Proverbs 4.

4. Give them wise instructions. Challenge them to follow your example. Challenge them to read, study and memorize God's Word. Show them how. Do it with them. Encourage them to read a chapter of Proverbs each day of the month.

Role of teaching. Positive guidelines

It is your responsibility to teach your children God's way, using the Bible as your guide.

Teach them God's plan for human race.

1. There is no excuse. All of us are sinners. We cannot be good enough to save ourselves.
2. Salvation is available only through accepting Jesus as Saviour. It is a free gift.
3. We need two births. We are to share our faith with others.
4. Hell and heaven are real.
5. Christ gives us assurance of our salvation.
6. The Bible is the final authority.
7. Teach them how to read, study, memorize, and listen to Word of God.

Also teach them:

1. Good attitude Including obedience.
2. Self discipline
3. Accept responsibility
4. Develop a strong work ethic.
5. Be willing to give to the Lord and to others.
6. Develop financial discipline and accountability.
7. Learn proper behavior around others, especially someone from opposite sex.

Role of teaching Unacceptable conduct

1. Immorality
2. Bad friends
3. Lack of respect for authority
4. Sibling rivalry
5. Gossip
6. Homosexuality
7. Cultic beliefs/witchcraft
8. Untrustworthiness
9. Lying
10. Swearing
11. Alcohol consumption
12. Rebellion
13. Anger
14. Worldly conformity
15. Wrong attitudes

What are some of the benefits for spouses, children, community and nation when you have a healthy family?

Benefits for a husband and wife

1. Better mental health.
2. Happiness
3. Physical health and long life.
4. Satisfying sex life
5. Stable finances

Benefits to the children

1. Less infant mortality
2. Better child mental health
3. It provides stability for the children
4. The family enjoys a better life style
5. It helps your children to grow up to become responsible adults

Benefits to local community

1. Less crime and violence
2. Less violence in the home
3. Less drugs and abuse
4. Better place to live
5. Better quality of life
6. Fewer tax dollars for social services, housing assistance, child welfare, crime prevention.
7. More stability in community.

Benefit to a nation

1. Families provide stable citizens
2. Families provide stable leaders
3. Families provide a healthier economy

In summary, let us look at the basic goals and guidelines for the importance of the family.

Basic goals & guidelines for marriage & family

1. Before marriage, make sure you are spiritually & psychologically mature Rom.12:1,2
2. Approach marriage as being in a permanent relationship. Mt. 19:4-6
3. Marry only a Christian who is also spiritually mature. II Cor. 6:14
4. Avoid behavior in your unmarried life that will cause you to have guilt feelings I Cor. 6:18
5. Establish basic spiritual goals for your family. Faith, Hope & Love I Cor. 13:13
6. Be aware that your sin nature will reveal itself. But realize God has provided a way for you to overcome the effects of the old nature & its temptations. I Cor. 10:13

Summary of Basic functions for a godly marriage and family

1. Biblical headship of husband with love
2. Biblical submission of wife to husband
3. Children's obedience to parents
4. Christian nurture of children

Summary of how we should apply these four functions in daily life

1. Headship of the husband over his wife, does not mean he will demand obedience or else, but as both discuss issues which need a decision, they will discuss them, pray over them, then finally, the husband makes the decision, with the wife accepting that decision with grace and then assists him with it as his wife and companion.
2. Proverbs 31 provides wonderful guidelines on the role of the submissive wife in her relationship with her husband, work ethic, business dealings, taking care of her husband & family, serving her community.
3. The guidelines for teaching the importance of child obedience can take on various ways. Don't make unfair demands. Don't ignore culture.
4. As you nurture your children, teach them moral & Biblical values.

Check list for husband's roles and responsibilities to his wife

How to rate your current status: 5 Excellent, 4 Very good, 3 Good, 2 Poor, 1 Failing

I have left my father and mother and am bonded to my wife.	1 2 3 4 5
I include my wife as one with me in every phase of my life.	1 2 3 4 5
I am faithful to my wife in my thoughts and actions.	1 2 3 4 5
I provide loving leadership to my wife as Christ does the church.	1 2 3 4 5
I put my wife's interests ahead of my own.	1 2 3 4 5
Often, I tell my wife I love her & do little things to show it.	1 2 3 4 5
I really listen when she expresses her feelings.	1 2 3 4 5
I try to say something nice to her & compliment her every day.	1 2 3 4 5
I do not go to bed angry with her.	1 2 3 4 5
I do not use her shortcomings for my own failures.	1 2 3 4 5
I talk about spiritual matters with her.	1 2 3 4 5
I lead in our daily times of devotion & prayer with God.	1 2 3 4 5

After rating yourself, ask your wife to go over them with you and compare ways you can both improve your roles and responsibilities to one another.

Check list for a wife's roles & responsibilities to her husband

How to rate your current status: 5 Excellent, 4 Very good, 3 Good, 2 Poor, 1 Failing

I have left my father & mother & identify with my husband.	1 2 3 4 5
I do not think that I may have married the wrong person.	1 2 3 4 5
I am committed to making our marriage last until one of us dies.	1 2 3 4 5
I do not withhold sex as a weapon to get my way.	1 2 3 4 5
I am willing to submit to my husband's responsibility of leadership	1 2 3 4 5
My inner beauty is more important than physical attractiveness.	1 2 3 4 5
I do little things for him that will please him.	1 2 3 4 5
I will show respect for my husband in my attitudes & actions.	1 2 3 4 5
I do not use my husband's shortcomings as an excuse for my failures.	1 2 3 4 5
I do my best to be faithful to him in my thoughts & deeds.	1 2 3 4 5
I encourage my husband to lead us in our daily devotions & prayer	1 2 3 4 5
I see myself as my husband's spiritual companion & pray for him.	1 2 3 4 5

After rating yourself, ask your husband to go over them with you and compare ways you can both improve your roles and responsibilities to one another.

List of Bible verses to choose from for children to memorize for a Bible (Choose 200 verses)

Sin & Salvation: Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23; Jn. 1:12; Jn 3:16; Jn. 3:36; Jn. 4:14; Jn. 5:24; Acts 4:12; Eph. 2:8,9

Assurance: Phil. 1:6; Jn. 10:27-29; Rom. 5:19; I Jn. 1:7-10; I Jn. 5:10-15;

Growing as a Christian: II Tim. 3:15; Ps. 119:11; Ps. 119:33-40; Psa. 119:105; Ps. 143:8-11; Prov. 3:5,6; Prov. 9:10; Rom. 10:9,10; Gal. 2:20; Gal. 5:22,23; Heb.12:1,2; Heb. 12:5-11; I Pet. 2:12;

Overcoming Temptations: I Cor. 10:13; Ps.119:9; Rom. 6:10-16; I Cor. 6:18-20; James 1:2-16; I Jn. 4:4;

Discerning God's will: Rom. 12:1,2; Prov. 16:3; Jer. 29:11-13;

Outreach: Rom. 10:14,15; Mk.16:15; Mt. 28:18-10; Acts 1:8; Lk. 24:46-48; Ps. 126:5,6; Rom. 1:14-17; I Cor.3:6-11;

Suffering: I Cor. 1:3-5;; Phil. 3:10; I Pet. 2:20-21; I Pet. 4:12-19; I Pet. 5:10;

Heaven: Jn. 14:1-6; I Cor. 15:51-58; I Pet. 1:2-7; I Jn. 3:1-3; Rev. 22:22-27;

Chapters: Ps. 1:1-6; Ps. 8:1-9; Ps. 16:1-11; Ps. 19:1-14; Ps. 37:1-40; Ps. 23:1-6; Ps. 139:1-24; Rom. 12:1-21; Rom.8:1-39; I Cor. 13:1-13; II Cor. 5:1-21; Phil. 4:1-23; Col. 3:1-25;

Books of the Bible

May God use you in your
role as a pastor or leader, as
you set a godly example to
your spouse, children,
church, community, and
nation