

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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# A Biblical Family

By Derek Long

We live in a world where there are many different views about what constitutes a family. We may hear the phrase "modern family" which indicates it is somehow different from what was traditionally considered a family. Christians are not concerned so much with what was traditionally considered a family as in what the Bible says a family consists of. We want to consider a few things the Bible has to say about what constitutes a family.

A family is based upon the relationship between a man and a woman who are married to one another. When God created mankind, He created two genders. Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (NKJV). The creation of woman is given in greater detail in Genesis 2:18-23. The joining of man and woman together forms the marriage relationship. Genesis 2:24 teaches, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (NKJV). Several things can be learned about the family from some of these principles stated in the early parts of God's word. 1. Marriage is a relationship between man and woman. God did not create two men or two women. Those who want to claim a homosexual relationship can form the basis of a family are mistaken. 2. Marriage is a monogamous relationship which is intended to be lifelong. God did not create two women for Adam or two men for Eve. God did not think Adam needed a backup plan in case Eve did not please him or he got tired of Eve. God expected these two individuals He joined together to be

in a lifelong relationship. Jesus draws this very conclusion about the marriage relationship in Matthew 19:4-6. 3. Marriage is not, as some might like to claim, a contractual relationship alone. Marriage is a covenant relationship. Malachi 2:14 states, "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant" (NKJV). The fact marriage is a covenant relationship reminds us it is not just an agreement between the husband and the wife but God also is a party to this commitment. Just because the husband and wife might decide they mutually want to exit the relationship does not loose them because God has bound them to one another. Additionally, in a contract, when one party does not fulfill their responsibilities it looses the other from the contract as well. Yet in marriage if one spouse does not do what they are supposed to do the other is still bound by God to be what they ought to be (Ephesians 5:22-33). For example, a wife is to submit to her husband even if her husband does not love her and a husband is to love his wife even if the wife does not submit to him.

A biblical family follows roles which are assigned by God. Our society allows for members of the family to come up with their own roles typically but God has designed certain roles for each member of the family. God has given the husband/father the responsibilities of: 1. Loving his wife as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25-29). 2. Training his children (Ephesians 6:4). 3. Providing for his family (1 Timothy 5:8). 4. Ruling his own house well (1 Timothy 3:4-5. 12). God has given the wife/mother the responsibilities of: 1. Submission to her husband (Ephesians 5:22-24). 2. Bearing children (1 Timothy 2:15; 5:14). 3. Managing the house (Titus 2:5; 1 Timothy 5:14). 4. Being a helper comparable (Genesis 2:18). God has given children the responsibilities: 1. To obey their parents (Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2; Ephesians 6:1-3). 2. Honoring their parents (Ephesians 6:2-3). 3. Perhaps caring for their parents in their aged years if such is necessary (1 Timothy 5:4, 16; Mark 7:9-13).

The family exists in part to produce godly offspring or to pass on the faith to the next generation. Malachi 2:15 says, "But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth" (NKJV).

God intends for parents to pass on the faith to their children. Ephesians 6:4 teaches fathers to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. 2 Timothy 1:5 talks about how Timothy's mother and grandmother had passed on their faith to Timothy. 2 Timothy 2:2 talks about how Paul expects Timothy to pass on the faith to others after him. The family serves as one means of passing on the faith to the next generation. People are sometimes concerned with making sure they children have certain skills or certain allegiances to a sports team. Our primary concern must be for our children to have an allegiance to God though. Psalm 78:6-7 describes this function of a family when it says, "That the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (NKJV). A biblical family will be one which passes on the faith to the children.

Other things could be pointed out as aspects of a family following the Bible's instructions but hopefully these things will cause us to think about how our family and the families of those around us are doing at following God's plan for the home.