

# The Biblical Family

**Introduction.** The family has undergone dramatic changes in the last half of the twentieth century. In fact, the changes have been so numerous, that many older people cannot believe the magnitude of changes.

These changes have not boded well for the family. Instead of families who follow a godly pattern, many families do not resemble God's standard in the least. The family is society's most precious commodity, and families must wake up and realize that we are in a battle, and the battle is not with flesh and blood, but with Satan himself (Ephesians 6:12). The tools Satan uses are many, but the remedy is very simple. The way to victory is paved by the word of God. Today we are going to examine ways in which the modern family is under attack and the ways to win.

## I. *The Modern Family Is Under Attack*

### A. Humanistic education.

1. Humanism has adversely affected virtually every phase of our lives. Protagoras, a fifth century B.C. orator and philosopher, gave a precise definition of humanism: "Man is the measure of all things." Humanism is a philosophy that rejects supernaturalism, regards man as a natural object, and asserts the essential dignity and worth of man and his capacity to achieve his highest potential through the use of reason and the scientific method.
2. Evolution is the product of a humanistic viewpoint. Humanism rejects the existence of God and if God does not exist, that leaves only one explanation for the origin of the universe and of man: the theory of evolution. Based on their belief in evolution, humanists have theorized that man can enjoy unlimited potential. Humanists sometimes admit that Jesus Christ was the greatest man and teacher who ever lived, but a greater one may eventually come along. At least the potential for being better and doing more good than Jesus resides in the human race.
3. Humanism also teaches that there is no deep-seated meaning for human existence. If man did not originate with God and if life has no meaning, what moral values should we follow? Words like "ought," "should," "duty," and "responsibility" have no meaning in humanism. Humanists believe that moral values derive their source from experience. Therefore, ethics are autonomous and situational. This creates an enormous opportunity for people to act out their desires based on subjective feeling.

### B. Ungodly entertainment.

1. Most Christians will claim that their children are relatively sheltered and therefore safe from the influence of the world. However, we

have one of the most effective vehicles for the transference of ungodliness ever created right in our own living rooms: television. Along with television, movies that have the worst kind of violence, language, and nudity are being watched and rented by Christian parents.

2. Obsession with recreation also attacks the modern family. Instead of teaching our children how important it is to attend worship assemblies, we teach them how important it is to not miss the baseball or soccer game. We can also spend more time entertaining ourselves than spending time "perfecting holiness" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

C. Breakdown of families.

1. Divorce is now so prevalent that many young children do not know what it is like to have a traditional family with a mother and father who love one another. It has been shown many times over that these types of relationships greatly add to the instability of the home. When instability is created, it either completely eliminates or greatly complicates the instruction of the word of God in a household.
2. The abdication of authority also is a problem that the modern family must face. All around you see children who have no parental respect because they have not been properly disciplined. The children "run the show" so to speak and have absolutely no authority for God because they do not recognize the authority of their parents.
3. The modern concept of parenthood calls for the mother and father's part in the biological production but turns the rearing of the child over to another. With both parents gone the children are left to fend for themselves. The Bible does not condemn a woman working, but she cannot neglect her responsibilities. Furthermore, fathers need admonition, for the father is to be the spiritual head, but some women have to raise the family all by themselves.

## II. ***The Modern Family Can Win The Fight***

A. By returning to God.

1. A house without a roof makes about as much sense as a family without God. The command to repent and change in Acts 3:19 implies that someone must make a decision. The same is true within the family.
2. One of the happiest moments is when parents become Christians and their children follow closely behind them in obedience (Acts 16:15, 32-34).

3. The modern family can also return to God by prayer (James 5:13-18). Use the avenue of prayer to gain strength and fight off temptation (Job 1:5; Daniel 6:10-11).
- B. By returning to righteous principles.
1. A return to righteous principles can only be accomplished by applying His word in every facet of daily life. Parents and children must study and learn how to use God's word to establish a guide for right and wrong (Psalm 119:104; cf. Jeremiah 7:17-18).
  2. We personally have to be diligent, and this fact does not change in relation to the family (2 Timothy 2:15). God's word discusses these modern attacks and how to combat them (2 Timothy 3:14-15).
  3. Many types of sin are condemned in the word of God (1 Timothy 1:8-10; Revelation 21:8). Parents and children both can act righteously if they know and understand God's word (Genesis 39:7-12; 1 Kings 15:11-13).
- C. By returning to deep commitment in the family.
1. In order to win the battle for souls, the family must be moved up the priority scale. In any age, families cannot afford to be put in second place (Ruth 1:16-17). When we do not give our families the attention they deserve, we set them up for failure.
  2. Noah's dedication saved his family (Genesis 6:8-12; Hebrews 11:7). So much can be accomplished by members of families spending desperately needed time together (1 Samuel 22:1).

**Conclusion.** Craig Barnes once illustrated what we have been talking about: "When I was a child, my father brought home a twelve-year-old boy named Roger, whose parents had died from a drug overdose. There was no one to care for Roger, so my folks decided they would raise him as their own. At first it was difficult for Roger to adjust to his new home. Several times a day, I heard my parents saying to Roger, 'No, no. That's not how we behave in this family.' 'No, no. You don't have to scream or fight or hurt other people to get what you want.' 'No, no, Roger, we expect you to show respect in this family.' In time, Roger began to change. Did he have to make those changes to become part of the family? No. He was part of the family by the grace of my father. But did he have to work hard because he was in the family? You bet he did. It was tough for Roger to change, and he had to work at it. But he was motivated by gratitude for the amazing love he had received. Do you have a lot of hard work to do now that you have been adopted into God's family? Certainly. You make those changes because you are a son or daughter. And every time you start to revert back to the old way, you need to remember that this is not the way we act in this family."

Although the modern family has so much facing it, it can be victorious; but the victory can only come by the family being armed with the whole

armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). Let us strap on that armor and fight against humanistic education, ungodly entertainment, and the breakdown of the family unit by returning to God, returning to righteous principles, and by having a deep commitment to see families succeed in God's sight.