

ESV Romans 8:38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,<sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- The Father's plan is to form His children to become like His Son, Jesus Christ  
ESV 1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

- When all believers are resurrected and glorified, their earthly family designations will be forever changed

ESV Luke 20:34 And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,<sup>35</sup> but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage,<sup>36</sup> for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

- For all of eternity, all believers will...

ESV Revelation 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.<sup>5</sup> And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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A Theology of the Family  
No. 1 - Introduction  
Selected Scriptures

## FAMILY

What comes to mind when you think about 'family'?

Family is...inevitable, joyful, sorrowful, dysfunctional, etc.

Why is it important to understand a biblical theology of the family?

Understanding family is...foundational

family, government, church

Understanding family is...beneficial

How you faithfully live out your own present family designation(s)

How you faithfully serve others in their present family designation(s)

How you faithfully encourage others to live out their own present family designation(s), and invite them to encourage you to live out yours

How you faithfully pray for yourself and others in living out the various present family designation(s)

What is 'family'?

Our world is confused...

Everyone enters life with 'factory settings' ...

Is 'family' subjective? Outdated?

Is 'family' just nuclear (blood, marriage, adoption)?

No. 1 – Introduction

Selected Scriptures

• Family is a creation of God (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:5-9, 15-25)

- God made 'man' (humanity) and made him (them) unique from all of creation
- One of man(kind)'s most significant distinguishing characteristics is being made in 'the image of God'
- Mankind was made as 'male' and 'female'

- Family can be redeemed through Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15)

- God promised that the woman's offspring would defeat the serpent's work

ESV 1 John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

- God sent His own Son to take on human flesh, be born of a woman, and live as a real human man

ESV Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- Jesus Christ was born, lived, suffered, and died—yes, and was raised!—so that sinners can be forgiven and adopted in God's family, by faith in Him

ESV John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**God, our Father  
Jesus, our Brother**

- ESV Luke 8:21 But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

- ESV Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

- Jesus makes believers spiritually alive and enables them, by His Holy Spirit, to follow His will, even in family relationships

The Mosaic Law  
The Household Code (Ephesians 5:1-6:9; Colossians 3:1-4:1)

ESV 1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- Family will be forever with God (2 Corinthians 6:18)
- Once a believer is adopted into God's family, He becomes their Father and nothing can *unadopt* them from His family

- God brought the woman to the man—thus, making them one flesh—in order to fulfill His design for mankind

Think about the way God, in His wisdom, chose to fulfill His design and plan for mankind (humans):

- Mankind was not intended to be alone, but together

- Man and woman were both supposed to work, but in ways that fit each of their design

- Man and woman were supposed to multiply and fill the earth, but through holding fast to each other, not to their fathers and mothers

- Man and woman, by accomplishing God's design for them together were supposed to experience the very good life

- Family became dysfunctional because of sin (Genesis 3:1-24; 4:1-16)

- The serpent came and spoke to the woman:

"Did God actually say...?" (v. 1)

- He questioned God's word
- He twisted God's word
- He emphasized the negative
- He expanded the negative more than it actually was

"You will not surely..." (v. 4)

- He implied that God was lying to them
- He implied that God was holding out on them
- He suggested that *he* knew and could be trusted
- He suggested that *he* wanted what was best for them

- Both the woman and the man ate from the forbidden fruit

**reject  
replace**

- As a result, they were both separated and subsequently 'cursed'

e.g. blaming, distrusting, hiding, self-preservation, self-seeking, extreme toil and difficulty, unfilled and unsatisfied, against each other, corrupt desires, isolated, etc.

- And, their sin would impact the rest of humanity, starting with their own family