

FAMILY MATTERS

Casting a Vision for the Future of our Families Psalm 22:27; 127:3-5

October Awareness

- Corporate Prayer Nights
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 7-8:00pm
- 10/6 Missions Sunday & Communion - Katie Miller-Kenya Update
- 10/17 Ladies Fellowship
- 10/19 New Hope Food Pantry (volunteers needed)
- 10/27 Gideon Presentation/Water Baptism in Church
- 10/31 Community Outreach "Light the night" 6-8:00pm
- 11/3 Daylight Savings
- 11/9 Youth Rally 3-5pm @Cornerstone

Prayer Points

- Marriages & Family Restoration
- Sanctity of Life
- Peace in Israel
- National Election Day
- Missionaries



The Family is God's Idea

It has been said by some that, "the family is the building block of civilization" and rightfully so, it is. But what God had in mind when He created mankind extends well beyond the idea of a mom & dad with children. The family is one of the most majestic pictures of the Gospel that God has embedded in the world around us. Through the darkness and confusion of a broken world we can see flashes in the family of something that at its very core resemble an eternal truth, the Fatherhood of God. In this grand creation picture etched in the opening chapters of Genesis (i.e. beginning or origins), we come to find a God who not only creates a family but earnestly desires to be in communion with them. Our God who created us in His image & likeness gave mankind intrinsic value and an innate ability to communicate with their creator! And this is only the beginning of God's story about His family.

Family Starts with a Godly Marriage

Our world today suffers from the unexamined notion the more recent something is, the better it is or perhaps, the truer it must be. When we overlook the opening words, (over)



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“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” in the bible, we immediately remove the Author of Life from the picture and now, “Man becomes the measure of all things.”¹ From this line of reasoning we lose our point of reference, which is God’s truth, and begin to form ideas about marriage & family that are out sync with God’s original design. Today we are in a desperate need for family reformation of which marriage is the foundation. At a very basic level, God created the family to give structure and order to the human beings that He created. Secondly, God created the family to be a living demonstration of various aspects of the glory of the gospel and the embodiment of biblical truths which find its roots in the eternal marriage between Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:22-33).

The Bible begins with the marriage of Adam & Eve (Genesis 2:20-24) and ends with the marriage supper of the Lamb where the bride – the church – is married to her husband (Rev. 19:7-9). The story of Christ’s love for the church is summarized in a picture of a husband saving a bride, giving his life up for her, and glorifying her. The apostle Paul delivers this imagery as he commands husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Paul contends that the love of Christ in the redemption of sinners is the pattern for the way husband’s ought to love their wives. The apostle Paul confirms this truth declaring, “this mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ & the church” (Ephesians 5:32).

A Godly Marriage Makes a Healthy Family

As much as discipling children in church is a high priority, raising children in a Christian home is the highest calling parents could ever have. When children enter the world, they use two means by which they begin to form basic ideas of life & God. Those two means are, what they *hear* & what they *see*. Raising children in a Godly home necessitates several things. The first is that they come to know God through His Word and a relationship through faith in Jesus Christ. This is the basis for understanding what God is like; holy, loving, merciful, and forgiving to mention a few things. Secondly, we want to foster an atmosphere of worship, so they form a means of seeking God through the Holy Spirit. This is most important as we don’t want our children to find God boring, unimportant, or something temporary. Children must engage with God, so they develop a natural growing love & desire for Him. Consequently, we help to create a sustainable future for the next generation of believers.

A word of encouragement for unequally yoked marriages and single parent homes raising children. Our heavenly Father is a God of immeasurable grace and when children see & hear a mom or dad serving, loving, and worshipping Jesus, there are promises from God that assure us, “He will never leave us or forsake us” (Deut. 31:6). If we could be of any assistance, please reach to us at 717-737-1903 or visit our website at www.cfaog.org.

With all our love & prayers for you & your family,

John Cornacchio
Children’s Ministry Director

¹ Protagoras of Abdera. https://www.worldhistory.org/article/61/protagoras-of-abdera-of-all-things-man-is-the-meas/#google_vignette