

REAL OR IDEAL FUTURE FAMILY, PART 1

Pastor Ken Ritz * Sept 10, 2017 * New Life Vineyard Church

Notes

- You can pick your friends, but not your family.
- The terms father, mother, son, and daughter are never emotionally neutral.
- There are few positive examples of families in the Bible.
- New Testament instructions on family were written to a Greek-Roman culture in which they would have sounded futuristic and unrealistic... but to us today they sound old-fashioned.
- The New Testament gave dignity and equality to women and children in a world where those were unheard of.
- As our nation moves further from a Christian worldview, women and children will suffer.
 - In the segments of our society that have given up on marriage, women are suffering the most.

Summary of New Testament teaching on the family

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise . . .

Ephesians 6:1-2

Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them...

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Colossians 3:18-21

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

1 Peter 3:7

In summary:

- Husbands: love your wives and be considerate.
- Wives: submit to your husbands.
- Children: obey your parents.
- Fathers: don't aggravate your children.

Jesus constantly pointed families toward a (seemingly unattainable) ideal, but he refused to condemn those who fell short.

2 Examples: Adultery and Divorce

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Matthew 5:27-28

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'"

"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

Matthew 19:3-8

The Ultimate Question:

Will we embrace a standard that many of us have fallen or will fall short of?

Or will we lower our standards in order to feel better about where we are?