

BECOMING A BIBLICAL FAMILY TODAY Part 2

Written by Calvin Fox
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WHAT DOES A HOLY MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LOOK LIKE?

The Decalogue begins with the declaration that God and God alone is to be worshiped. It proceeds to command that the Sabbath on which God is to be worshiped is to be treated as holy and then, next, parents are to be honored.

Definition of "Honor": To treat with dignity and respect, particularly acknowledging their authority.

Treating God as holy and honoring parents go together. Both God and Parents are to be honored and obeyed. The reason for this? Parents, especially the Father, is to represent God to their children. They are responsible to teach their children the Law of God (The Torah)

*Exodus 20:12, Leviticus 19:1-3, Deut 4:1-10, Deut 6:4-7+20ff, Psalm 78:1-8, Prov. 17:6,□
Prov.19:26, Eph.6:1-3, Col.3:20*

To disrespect (curse, blaspheme) Parents is to disrespect (curse, blaspheme) God

Lev.24:16 Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him.

Lev.20:7 Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. 8 Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you. 9 For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death;

God, Marriage and Family. The Commands about relationships with other persons follows those which deal with these three subjects. There is a reason for this sequence. Any attempt to implement the last five must begin with the first five. Clearly, Worship and Family, together, are the foundation of Society. To undermine the former, is to destroy the latter. This has often been said, but is rarely implemented and that forebodes ill for the future of America where all the cultural trends are contravening.

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Marriage and parenthood are the bridge between God and Society. Marriage in the Bible means a covenanted heterosexual relationship and parenthood means father and mother. God is God and parents represent Him in the life of their children and are responsible for passing on His Law to them (among other important things). There are many forms of Marriage in American Society and probably shall always be. The problem is not that "Marriage" is endangered. The problem is that this Biblical form of Marriage is endangered! There is no permanent or meaningful solution to many of Society's problems apart from this form.

Ancient Israel was a Society based on a kinship network. The Society as a whole supported family, kinship ties. The Biblical family can survive only where these ties are greatly valued. The Biblical family was not today's nuclear or permissive, child-centered family. Everything about the Biblical Family was God-centered and shaped to conform to all the religious and moral teachings of the Torah. It was patriarchal and multi-generational and largely self-supporting, meeting all of its own basic needs.