

# Kingdom Order for the Family

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**Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV) “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.””**

**Genesis 2:18–25 (NKJV) “And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: ‘This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”**

The family is under attack. Even Christian marriages are not exempt. Many families are unraveling under the pressure of confusion, crisis, and chaos. Unfortunately, many families will not survive because they are not operating according to God’s kingdom order for the family.

Our society is attempting to redefine “family” based upon the confusion and chaos that exists. However, there is no confusion in God’s mind about family. After all, family is God’s idea. God is the original Father. He has a spiritual family beginning with His Son Jesus and extending to all born again believers past, present, and future (Ephesians 3:14-15). As a result we call upon God as our heavenly Father and call one another “brother” and “sister”. We are a part of God’s family! A healthy church will reflect God’s kingdom order for the family.

When God created mankind, He did so with family in mind. God designed the man and the woman to become one in marriage and form a family. Family is the foundational building block for the church and society. As the family goes, so goes the church and society. From the beginning God intended that mankind would subdue the earth through replicating families who reflect His kingdom order.

What is God’s kingdom order for the family? It is revealed in the first two chapters of Genesis. Before we can experience it, we must know what it is. First, God created man in His image and likeness. We are not animals and we are not to live like them. Evolution rejects God as man’s Creator.

Second, God designed the genders of male and female. Genders are equal in personhood but different in design and function. Human reproduction and the nurturing of children depend upon these differences.

Third, God created the man and the woman in a specific sequence—man first and the woman second. This sequence is not haphazard. It reveals God’s intention that the man should lead in the home and in the church (see 1 Timothy 2:11-13).

Fourth, God revealed His order in the matter of substance or origin. God formed man from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7) but formed the woman from man’s side (Genesis 2:21-22). This difference in substance and origin reveals God’s glory in the marriage relationship (1 Corinthians 11:7-8).

Fifth, God instituted the order of headship. God assigned to the man authority and responsibility for leadership (Genesis 2:8, 15-16). Headship exists within the Godhead and is reflected in the family: God is Head over Christ; Christ is Head over the Man; Man is head over the wife (1 Corinthians 11:3).

Sixth, God’s order is revealed in the different functions (or roles) assigned to the man and the woman. The man is God’s representative leader in the family. The woman is the man’s supportive helper (Genesis 2:18). The husband is God’s representative truth-teller. The wife is the submissive truth-supporter. The man’s role of leadership is open while the wife’s role is veiled. Although their functions in the family differ, neither the man nor woman is self-sufficient but rather interdependent— “completing” rather than “competing” (1 Corinthians 11:11-12).

Seventh, God reveals His kingdom order by the differences in dispositions. As the leader, God made man to be task-oriented. As his companion, God made the woman to be help-oriented. God designed the woman as the “weaker vessel” in regard to her softness and sensitivity to relational and practical issues. Regarding the home it has been said that the man is the head, but the woman is the heart. The husband is to honor his wife by acknowledging that her completing insights are indispensable to the family’s success (1 Peter 3:7).

Eighth, God reveals His order through the oneness of marriage (Genesis 2:24). Marriage is a lifetime bond between a man and woman for the purpose of forming a new family. Marriage is more than a man and a woman sharing the same bed (John 4:16-17). Marriage involves a binding lifetime covenant that requires death or Scriptural divorce to sever (Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 19:3-9).

Ninth, God reveals His order through His command to “multiply and fill the earth”. This involves the replicating of families through the conception and rearing of godly children. The complementing roles of fathers and mothers are essential to forming and replicating strong families.

Tenth, God reveals His order for the family by assigning to man dominion in the earth. Both the man and the woman share in this dominion assignment (Genesis 1:27-28). The husband is God’s representative ruler in this dominion while the wife is a relational ruler in this dominion.

Although God revealed His kingdom order for the family in creation, it did not go unchallenged. Satan temporarily thwarted God’s plan through deceiving mankind to reject God’s order. Satan himself, along with one third of the angels, first rebelled against God’s order (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Jude 6; Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9). Satan continued

the subversion of God's order by going around Adam, God's representative ruler in the Garden, to Eve. Satan's deceptive reasoning was so subtle that Eve ignored God's clear command in order to embrace a lie. Because Eve acted independently of Adam's headship, she fell into deception and sin (Genesis 3:13; 1 Timothy 2:14). Sin disrupted God's order and changed the nature of the relationships within the marriage and the family. Sin brought shame, fear, control, and the shifting of blame. Deception and sin brought malfunction and dysfunction in the family unit. Anytime God's kingdom order for the family is violated—whether by a man acting independently of Christ or by a woman acting independently of her husband, deception, disorder, and dysfunction will be the result. The scenarios of disaster are endless anytime we violate God's kingdom order for the family.

If we call ourselves Christians but pattern our families after our culture, we should not be surprised when we reap the same consequences that the world experiences. It is time to kick the devil out of our family garden! It is time to repent of the sin that has brought deception, disorder, and dysfunction into the home. It is time to restore God's kingdom order for the family so that we might experience God's peace and blessing. Discover God's kingdom order by studying and applying the following Scriptures (Genesis 1-2; 1 Corinthians 11:2-12; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7). By returning to God's kingdom order, revival will come one family at a time.

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