

Marriage and the Family *The Nuclear Family*

Eph 6 —The family is the oldest and most basic of human institutions. In both the Israelite culture of the Old Covenant and the Hellenistic culture of the New Covenant, the household might consist of parents and children, relatives from several generations, servants, and even friends, depending upon the economic resources of the head of the family.

The foundation of what we know about marriage and the family is recorded in what is known as *the Bible* or *the Book* — the Scriptures *set apart* for God's *set apart* people. *The Holy Bible* — *holy* means *set apart* for a *set apart* purpose, like the *holy people* of a *set apart* God. The Holy Bible is *holy* or *set apart* from all other books or manuscripts, and is for only God's *holy* and *set apart* people, as God is holy (or set apart) from all of the people, and is only His people's God. His word is written only for His holy people, His people set apart for Him alone.

The Bible records for God's people His will for them. The Bible is not for anyone else except disciples (Lk 14:33) who have surrendered to the coming King (Lk 14:32). Lk 14:26 and 33 make it clear who is (and who is not) a disciple, having eternal life (Mk 10:28-30; Mk 3:31-35).

In Jer 31:1, God is set apart for His set apart people, who are set apart for Himself. These holy people are comprised into *families* in clans, and clans in tribes, and tribes into a holy nation set apart for Himself, to do His will (Isa 53:10-11; Mt 21:43).

So the Bible makes it clear that there is an authority structure in a family (that is really a family). Jer 31:1 would not be true without a father, mother, and children relationship. 1 Cor 11:3; Eph 6:1-4 — Fathers who have this authority are invested in the fact that they are fathers. Heb 12:7-9 — Fathers discipline their children. What father does not? This poses the possibility of *bastard* fathers, who have bastard sons — not for lack of legal marriages, but out of not loving their children (Pr 13:24).

What father is there who does not love his child, but actually hates his child? The word of God recorded here is, of course, not written to everyone, for most people just ignore this proverb, as well as Pr 17:4, since they are liars who listen to so-called "psychologists," who are maliciously spreading the message to just give your child Ritalin instead of the "abusive tactic" of discipline with a rod. All psychologists are liars who convince liars of this evil. But corporal discipline is *approved* by God (Pr 10:13; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15).

Discipline with love is love for your child (Pr 3:11-12) — discipline in the form of chastening and chastisement. The word of God is our instruction, which requires disciplining with a *rod* (balloon stick). This correction is not meant to be harmful, nor is it meant that the parent can be angry with his child or out of control. This chastisement method, given by the Creator, is not meant to do harm or be abusive, but have the very opposite effect. But, because chastisement is painful and causes suffering, specific encouragement not to rebel against it is necessary. So the true son will not despise this chastening, for it is from God Himself through the father of the child.

Heb 12:3-11 explains that God's correction is as Rev 3:19. Lk 11:11-13 — Only God's holy people can understand this (Pr 2:3-5; 4:5-9; 8:11,17).

So the Bible pictures a clear authority structure within one of His families. That is how He is the God of all the families of Israel (Jer 31:1), that is, spiritual Israel (Isa 49:6; Mt 21:43). The husband is head over the wife and children. Both husband and wife lead the children, instruct, and discipline them (Pr 22:6,15). Eph 6:1-3 — And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but train them up — bring them up; bring, lead, carry, cause to come along with you toward the place you want them to go (Pr 22:6,15). *Bring* is #1625, to rear up to maturity, to cherish or train, bring up, nourish. *Up* is #846 — from infancy to adulthood. "Bring them up" in the Greek means to *nourish* so that they will flourish, as Eph 5:29, "nourishes and cherishes."

The father with the mother are entrusted with the minds and souls, with all aspects of their developing personality — spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically, bearing the divine image and likeness. The children do not just exist for the parents, but the parents for their children, to bring them into their

own personhood before God.

Eph 6:4 — *Training or nurture* (#3809) means the shaping of the will through discipline. *Admonition* (#3559) means the shaping of the soul and all aspects of their developing personality through teaching. #3809 is from #3811, instruction of children, and #3816, a child. It includes chastising because effectual instruction involves discipline with a rod (Pr 13:24) for correction and rectification (#1882, 2 Tim 3:16). *Admonition* (#3559), which is mainly by word of mouth, is essential in the raising up of a child to maturity, into fully developed manhood or womanhood. Admonition is training with teaching by the word, in instruction, encouragement, or reproof. Without both nurture or training (with the rod) and admonition, the bringing up of a child would be incomplete. Pr 29:15 — Training requires *both* the rod and reproof. Both are essential — correction by the rod (which represents authority), plus the appeal to the reasonable faculties (#1882, correction), to set right again, to make right what is wrong in a child's life or behavior.

In Pr 22:6, the Hebrew expression translated “train up” meant inauguration, or starting a child's life in the way it should go (Dt 6:7). Pr 22:15 reveals the inborn propensity in fallen nature, but the rod of correction (“corporal punishment”) or discipline with a rod deals with it (Pr 13:24; 29:15; 23:13-14).

Pr 23:14-15 explains what a true, loving father will do with the rod, using it for its designated purpose. So who would militate against what God's words give His people instruction to do? If we are disobedient, we will be corrected by His rod. Pr 19:18; 3:11-12; 13:24 — Chastening will always be respected by true sons (Heb 12:7-9).

The Proverbs speak much about discipline and sons (children) and fathers. True sons and true fathers will be the only ones who are designed to hear them, for they want to hear wisdom (Pr 2:3-5; 4:5-9; 8:11-17). Discipline is essential to the beginning of the Race, which ends in Rev 12:1-6, producing the 144,000 (the Male Child, Rev 14:1-5) when discipline has produced its perfect effect (Lk 1:17; Mal 3:1-3). Heb 12:1 — The Race will only be completed if action is taken now to heal spiritual injuries of the past (Heb 12:12), in order to avoid the pitfalls in the future (verse 13). Isa 35:3-4; Heb 3:13; 12:15,3-4; Pr 4:25-27 — We are called to a single-minded adherence to the path, the way (Pr 22:6; Gen 18:19). Strengthening and healing injured limbs to run the Race is done by understanding Heb 12:14-17 (Heb 4:1). A root of bitterness (Heb 12:15; Dt 29:18) is one who spreads doubt and disloyalty toward authority among Yahweh's covenant people — the one who causes trouble, causes others to be defiled. We must encourage the weak but oppose the rebellious who influence others (Pr 6:19).

Leadership in the Family

Jer 31:1 — **The family** in a clan of one of the twelve tribes of Israel (Isa 49:6) — this fulfills all prophecy for the present age (Mt 21:43; Heb 10:13; Rev 11:15; 20:1-2). The nuclear family consists of only father, mother, and children, within a community. This makes up the clan, or community of nuclear families. In each nuclear family the husband leads the wife and they lead their children under the father's headship. This leadership is their ministry in their own nuclear family — a ministry rather than a tyranny. These domestic leadership roles must be fulfilled in love (Eph 5:22 – 6:4; Col 3:18-21; 1 Pet 3:1-7). The Fourth Commandment in Ex 20 requires the head of the household to lead his whole family in Sabbath observance, and the Fifth requires children to honor and respect and submit to (obey) their parents (Ex 20:8-12; Eph 6:1-3).

As a child, our Master was subject to His parents. He increased in His developmental process for His parents, who nurtured (trained) Him in all things pertaining to godliness. He was made well rounded in His personal development — intellectual, social, spiritual, and emotional. He kept His strength under control when He got angry (Mk 7:6-13).

Mk 7:10 — Our Master brings out the Law, which appeals to our children spiritually — they become spiritually dead, not able to take in anything taught by the Spirit by teachers, except what appeals to their own soul (intellect) or what is taught by teachers who teach things appealing only to their senses, but not their spirit (1 Pet 4:11).

Mk 7:10 — To dishonor parents is to fail to honor them as they are commanded (Ex 21:17; 20:12). They

belong to the generation of children who hate God (Ex 20:5), and not to the generation who love Him (Ex 20:6; Isa 49:17). The word *curse* in Mk 7:10, as in Ex 21:17, means to not obey — to slight, dishonor, speak evil of or not speak well of, failing to honor them. This is regarded in Hebrew culture as “cursing” and the child would be turned over to the elders of old Israel for stoning. When in the New Covenant Israel, God Himself makes their heart become stone (Pr 20:20).

Our Master kept the whole Law and commandment, even to His death (Jn 19:25-27). Mk 3:31-35 shows that if His mother had opposed Him in His mission, He would have lived up to His own words (Lk 14:26; 12:49-53; Mt 10:34-38). His word puts His Father in Heaven above all else. As all disciples know, only He can grant eternal life to those who obey the gospel (Mk 10:28-30). Acts 5:32 — All who do not obey Him will be as 2 Ths 1:8-9.

The family in the community is in constant learning, growing up in every aspect of the personality into Messiah (Eph 4:15-16). The priority is that children are instructed. Gen 18:18-19 — Only if one does this is he of the seed of Abraham (Gal 3:26-29) or of the twelve tribes of Israel (Acts 26:6-8; Isa 49:6-8; Dt 4:9). Deuteronomy stresses the covenant responsibility of parents for their children (Dt 6:7; 11:19). This covenant continues in the New Israel (Mt 21:43; 19:14; Acts 2:39). Mt 19:14 — Our Master was a true rabbi (Pr 22:6; Eph 6:4).

Look at Pr 1:8 and Pr 6:20-21 and Pr 3:1.

Discipline is meant for corrective training, to lead children beyond children’s folly to a self-controlled way of life (Pr 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15). There is a purposeful, loving discipline in our Father’s house (Pr 3:11-12; Heb 12:5-11), and so it is in the nuclear family. This nuclear family is meant to function in the household of God (God’s own household, Eph 2:19-20) as a spiritual unit. The nuclear family household is seen as a unit in Jos 24:15 and Acts 11:14; 16:15, 31-33; 1 Cor 1:16. And 1 Tim 3:4-5, 12 and Titus 1:6 is the telling tale that tells on the slack-handed fathers, who cannot be elders either.

Rom 1:30 and 2 Tim 3:2 is the nations, but who are we (Gen 18:19) but those who gain the enemy-free land for the natural seed of Abraham in Isaac (Gen 15:18; Isa 49:8; Acts 26:8; Rom 11:12-15; Eze 36:22-28, 31-36).