

**“IT TAKES A FAMILY”
(Genesis 2:18-25) s**

Introduction:

1. **A few years ago, a book entitled, It Takes A Village, was a best seller.**
 - a. **It was written by a prominent politician.**
 - b. **It set forth the idea that society as a whole, not just the family, was responsible for raising children.**
2. **What is today called “the traditional family” was ordained by God Himself.**
 - a. **The “traditional family” consists of a husband and his wife and their children.**
 - b. **God established the family in the Garden of Eden.**
 - c. **The family is the oldest institution in the world.**
 - d. **It is also the most basic of all other institutions in society.**
3. **The family has been the backbone of all civilizations.**
 - a. **Edward Gibbon listed disintegration of the family as one of five major causes leading to the fall of the Roman Empire.**
 - b. **Pres. James A. Garfield said: “The sanctity of marriage and the family relation makes it the cornerstone of American society and civilization.”**
4. **There is a crisis today in America in government, morality, the economy, crime, and overall quality of life.**
 - a. **The origin of this crisis can be traced back to the disintegration of the American family.**
 - b. **Government programs, conferences, and allocation of taxpayer funds have done nothing to alleviate the crisis.**
5. **God created the home as the first of all other institutions.**
6. **We are going to examine God’s plan for the family in a series of lessons.**

Discussion:

- I. **GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH IN SIX DAYS (GEN. 1).**
 - A. **Each act of creation was in preparation for the act to follow.**
 - B. **When all was in readiness, man was created last of all (Gen. 1:27).**

1. Man was God's crowning act of creation.
2. Man was placed in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15-17).

II. GOD CREATED WOMAN AS A COMPANION FOR MAN (GEN. 2:18-22).

A. God "saw that it was not good for man to be alone."

1. Man needed a companion on his social, spiritual and intellectual level for he is made in God's image.
2. God said, "I will make a helper comparable to him."
3. God caused all the animals to pass before man, "but for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him" (Gen. 2:19,20)

B. God created woman for man and from man (Gen. 2:21-23).

1. God caused a "deep sleep to fall on Adam."
2. He took from Adam's side a "rib" and made woman.
3. When Adam saw Eve, he 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."

III. GOD GAVE HIS MARRIAGE LAW AT THE BEGINNING (GEN. 2:24).

A. God's marriage law is very simple:

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

1. When the Jews asked Jesus about divorce, He referred them to God's original plan (Matt. 19:3-9).
2. He emphasized that marriage consists of only one man and one woman by adding the word "two" (Matt. 19:5).
3. God intended the marriage union to be for life.
4. Jesus permitted only one exception to God's original law:

"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery" (Mt.19:9).

B. A simple summary of God's marriage law is:

1. "One man, one wife - for life!"
2. The only exception is that an innocent partner has the right to divorce a partner guilty of fornication and marry again.

IV. CURRENT FORCES ARE UNDERMINING THE FAMILY.

A. Secular humanism permeates education and the media.

- 1. It is based on evolution which says that man is merely an animal.**
- 2. It rejects any absolute standard of right and wrong.**
- 2. Marriage becomes merely an evolved social form that can be varied or replaced.**

B. The homosexual agenda strikes at the very heart of the home.

- 1. God created marriage for a man and a woman.**
- 2. Only a man and a woman can have children and perpetuate the human race (Gen. 1:28).**

C. The radical Women's Liberation Movement opposes the family as God set it up.

- 1. Women who choose to be wives and mothers are ridiculed.**
- 2. The God given role of the husband and father as head of the family is opposed (Eph. 5:22,23).**

D. The ease and acceptance of divorce is a major factor in the decline of the family.

- 1. The divorce rate has sharply increased since the 1950's.**
- 2. People living together without being married is widespread and widely accepted today (Heb. 13:4).**
- 3. Children from one parent homes are at much greater risk:**
 - a. They are more likely to get in trouble in school and drop out earlier.**
 - b. They are more likely to be in trouble with the law.**
 - c. They are more likely to live below the poverty level.**
 - d. They are at much greater risk of becoming involved in drugs and gangs.**
 - e. They are more likely to be subject to child abuse.**

Conclusion:

- 1. There is no substitute for the family as God ordained it.**
- 2. It is the basic building block of all society.**
- 3. Most of our social, economic, and moral problems would be solved if we returned to God's plan for the family.**
- 4. To have a Christian home, one must become a Christian (Mark 16:15,16).**