

THE FALL OF FAMILIES

By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh" Gen. 2:24.

An all wise God laid the plan for the family based on His principles for success. He finished the creation of all things and then made His chosen caretaker to name, care for, and enjoy His wise provision. As He surveyed all He had made, God said, *"it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an helpmate"* Gen. 2:18. God caused Adam to have a great sleep and from his side took a rib and made a woman. Not a bone from the head to intellectually dominate, nor from the foot to kick around, but from close to the heart to be cherished. The family relationship is very clear to see in scriptures. I Cor. 11:3 states, *"The head of every woman is the man."* Like it or not, God has chosen the leadership of the family to be invested in the man. The feminist crowd hates that order but an all knowing God has decreed it. A domineering woman or a milk toast husband can both be destructive to the family. A bully husband with all the feelings of a drill sergeant can also ruin the family harmony and longevity. Firm, loving leadership with purpose, develops a man the woman can follow and reverence. A Godly woman must be submissive, subject to her own husband and loving. She must be obedient and exercise her responsibilities with faithful devotion to her husband. A wife must give herself to the family with the devotion of Christ who gave himself for the church. The fruit of the womb is His reward and your children are your most valuable possession. Remember, the husband must be "Tarzan", mother must be "Jane" and the children must be "Cheeta". Just kidding! Any departure from

Biblical family roles becomes destructive to the family.

In many families **SELFISHNESS HAS REPLACED LOVE**. When mother pursues her career with greed and selfish zeal, while neglecting family responsibilities, trouble results. I have often said pant clad career women will not get half the reward of dedicated wives and mothers at the judgment seat. The loving wife and dedicated mother is best. Societies cry is to "do your own thing". God's plan is to first serve Him and then others. To get love you must first give it. It is not a 50/50 proposition but must be 100% on the part of both. You owe your wife 100% of your all in every way. She for great happiness must offer you the same. When all family members live to please each other, love swells within the family unit and great families result. *"Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another"* Eph. 4:32. Live for each other and all for the Lord.

Another home destroyer is **THE FAST PACE OF TODAY'S LIVING**. Economic conditions are demanding and we tend to be overcome with time consuming activities. Do you really need that other job or car? Must we run, run, run and not stop long enough to enjoy our growing families? Often family members pass like ships in the night while the only family pastime is watching the TV. Many families today don't even take time to eat with each other. Meals should be a great time for the melting pot of family bonding and discussion. Family living takes time. If your family avoids the failure list it will have to shift from demanding pressures to family priorities. Take time to parent and slow down long enough to notice each other. Be a family. Do things together and stop to listen to each other. Remember your family is the only thing you can take to Heaven with you. Please don't sacrifice your family for the rush of today's

competitive society. Slow down dad, and listen to your family. Mom take time to be interested in your child's life and problems. And teens, enjoy and respect the interest your parents are commanded to give you. Take time to thrill them with your obedience and appreciation for all they do for you.

I further see the **CONFLICT OF LOYALTIES** in our present day families. Many become involved in a myriad of things instead of the One who will give all things. "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*" Matt. 6:33. Hundreds of Bible verses place God and His will at the top of family loyalties. School must not be put before church. The athletic coach is not higher than the preacher. Beware, lest even good things become a chain from which you cannot free yourself to serve the Lord. Attend all the services of the church and let nothing interfere. Your church will never see revival unless you are faithful. The spiritual growth and welfare of your family must not be eclipsed by anything. I tremble for our church when we pass on and leave it to our present youth. Who will champion the church? Who will attend and support it fully? We must reverse present trends and be able to say, "*as for me and my house we will serve the Lord.*" Joshua 24:15.

Families often **LACK PROPER EMPHASIS AND ETERNAL GOALS**. Most live on the flip side of the coin, "*for to me to live is Christ*" Phil. 1:21. Instead it is "What can I get for me"? I know of a youth who rushed home from a meeting in which he had surrendered to preach. Running into the house he told his dad, "I've just surrendered my life, I'm going to be a preacher!" "No you aren't", said his dad, "There's no money in it." How tragic! One has only to check the yearbooks of Christian high schools to see the family and others are not stressing service for the Lord. I find so

few students have any desire to be something for Jesus. Today's teens meet for youth meeting with all the enthusiasm of going to the dentist. Where are those who should desire to attend a Christian college, consider the ministry, or missionary service. Today's church member often ignores the challenge to serve the Lord. Their eyes are set on a career, popularity and money. We cry against the world's humanism, but we suffer with a like malady in most of our Christian homes. We say we want our kids to have better than we did and push them toward the prominent high paying jobs. Most Christian parents do not teach their children to seek the will of God. His will must be desired for every family member and carefully followed for real family fulfillment. One of your kids could be the great leaders of future Christianity and all should consider doing something with their life for Jesus instead of saying youths are not interested. Why not work and pray for your home to be a launching pad for lifetime service and eternal reward.

Man used to say his home was his castle. If so, **THE MOAT HAS BEEN DRAINED, THE WALLS CRUSHED AND THE SECURITY BREACHED**. Satan has found many ways to enter the one place on earth that ought still to be free from evil. Our modern Christian dads read questionable magazines, spend hours watching evil TV programming, and allow their kids to listen to evil character ruining music. How can an earring wearing father, adorned with an effeminate necklace, paying thirty dollars to have his hair permed, ever be the strong man of the house. He can't! A slop opera mother who watches all the soaps, loves country music and dresses like a garage mechanic will never turn out a good Godly family. Years ago kids learned cursing from the tough kids down the block. Now they can learn all the latest forms of swearing, sinning and watch immorality on their own family TV. Or the uncontrolled one their parents allow

them to have in their bedroom. The Bible warns, *"take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other Gods, and worship them"* Deut 11:16. The TV guide must not replace the Bible, nor the VCR or stereo be allowed to eclipse the Word of God. When the sounds from your home no longer glorify God you are in grave trouble. We must clean out our minds and homes before the paralysis of worldly things causes permanent damage.

Lastly, the greatest family destroyer is **THE NEGLECT OF THE SPIRITUAL**. It all must begin in the home. The father is to be the priest, rabbi or preacher in the family. As such he must maintain a daily family altar and be the families spiritual advisor. Church neglect is a tragic blow to the family while every service you miss is a vote to close your church. My parents were very church oriented and nothing was more important than worship. Shame on you for missing prayer meeting in favor of school activities and other distractions. Your Easter and Christmas visit to the church cannot possibly offset thousands of hours sitting at the Devil's shrine of addictive TV. Prayer meeting is as important as Sunday morning service. When your family starts missing the services of your church then backsliding will take over. You must join a good church, please, hear me again, join a good church and be very active in spiritual service. Failure in this will cause great erosion in your family spiritually. Your children will become rebellious and the family will begin falling apart. You need the fellowship of other families and your church needs your enthusiastic participation.

To close this let me urge you to remember *"what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder"* Matt. 19:6. Marriage is for a lifetime and with believers there should be no divorce. Enter it with a great deal of prayer and willing acceptance of your responsibility. Plant

your roots deep in the soil of time tested spiritual precepts. Cultivate the family with careful feeding and prune away the waste. Stand against all that seeks to degrade, hinder and detract from the family values you seek to preserve. Only Christ should come before your family. A Godly family is a joy to behold. Bathe your home in prayer and again remember it is the only thing you can take to Heaven with you. Now please, get with it for the sake of the family God has given you and the eternal reward awaiting you in Heaven. See you and your family in church. I once heard the story of a man who would never come to church. Multiple times the pastor had visited and urged him to come. He never would. Then one tragic day the church caught on fire. The fire engines roared to the church sirens screaming. Soon hundreds of people stood in sadness watching the church go up in flames. Members wept and stood in the ranks of the curious, as the firemen fought the blaze. As the preacher scanned the crowd, he spotted the man he had tried to get to come to church. Circling the crowd the pastor put his hand on the man saying, "I urged you to come to church many times and you refused. Now here you are and I wonder why?" The man said, "The church was never on fire before." There is a sad truth here. Is your church on fire? Is it reaching out to others.? This is something your whole family can do for the glory of God. I wonder what the neighbors see in your family? May God help us to get going and put first things first, including God, our church, and the family.