

Sex: Children & Family

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

⁴Parents, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Reproductive Issues & Children

Should sex just be for procreation?

What does procreation mean for us as Christians?

What is the Biblical teaching on family?

Can sex be only used for pleasure/intimacy to the exclusion of the possibility of children?

Is it wrong to teach sex education so early?

Families were meant for Joy

Children are the natural blessing of the love between a couple.

They are a part of that consummation
and distillation of affection, intimacy, safety and trust.

Sexuality is for our joy, and may not result in children
but at the same time it is a natural outcome
and meant to be a blessing.

God created us in a manner where we could be blessed
and a blessing.

His people were meant to have children and those children
were to be raised in a full and wonderful environment.

The first commandment in the Bible to people is to
"be fruitful and multiply." (Gen 1:28)

Sin Breaks Families:

But like all other things that were meant for blessing what was meant for blessing is corrupted by sin.

Inasmuch as we want to have good and loving families
it is not really a choice.

Relational brokenness, Sexual brokenness, divorce, rejection,
selfishness, pain are the realities.

The entire Bible tells it like it is since the fall
- beginning of Abel's murder by his brother Cain.

It's dysfunctional family after dysfunctional family
- even among God's people.

He give them the 10 commandments of which
one of them was to honour your mother and father.

Even then, things don't go very well.

All this has been passed onto our day and age.

We know our families are a mess - some more than others.

Christians are meant to trust God
in our being children as well as in our parenting.

In regard to raising families
some choose not to intervene in the processes of reproduction
as a sign of faith.

Others, in an equally legitimate and faithful pursuit
choose to be stewards of the number of children they have.

What is not acceptable is to practice birth control or reproduction

as a means to further our own worldly agendas and pursuits.
We are not to succumb merely to culture.
But what will keep us from being like that?

Jesus' Family Portrait:

So finally, Jesus, the Messiah shows up.

He begins to do something very different and very strange.

He begins to teach people how to pray by calling God
"Abba" - in English, "Father."

In fact he is the one who says his family are the people
who do God's will. (Mark 3:31-35)

³¹ Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

³³ "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" ³⁵ Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

There is a new family - not our imperfect struggling families,
but the family of God.

We are all invited in and we show we belong
by beginning to take on the traits of our Heavenly Father.

Jesus is our "older brother" as well as our Saviour and King.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is that you are invited
not just into God's Kingdom,
But into his family.

It is in learning to be a part of God's Family that we redeem
what it means to be in our own families as children or parents.

Families is the natural invitation to spiritual formation
for believing homes.

Truth be told, there are hundreds of parenting books out there.

There are many different parenting styles, some better than others.

I am not going to comment on them due simply to time.

All I am going to say is every parent has the responsibility
of bringing up their children to know and love God.

This means, you have to do that yourself first.

"Should we be teaching sex education to our children so early?"

Yes!!! Either that or the world will get to them first.

Recommendation of Gary Thomas' *Sacred Parenting*

And children, honour your mother and father.

If you do not, there are consequences beyond "time outs"
and being grounded that are much more dire.

You may end up with a terrible relationship with your mom and dad.

Not all of us are parents, but all of us are children.

Of our earthly parents.

Of our Heavenly Father and our Family in Christ.

Questions:

How did your family show love?

How did/do you want to be loved?

How do you show love?

How does God show you love?

Do you let him and his family love you?

Why or why not?

How or how not?