

ANCIENT WISDOM FOR THE MODERN FAMILY

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

The modern American family is tremendously confused and is rapidly heading towards the path of judgment and destruction because it has abandoned God's law and ordinance for the family. **In this age of moral decline and family disintegration, we must turn to the ancient wisdom of God's Word which provides the key to a strong and Christ-honoring home.** We need to go back to the timeless blueprint of God for the family if we are to raise and disciple the next generation for the praise of God and the glory of Christ. As an introduction to our series of studies on Ephesians 6:1-4, let's reflect on these two ancient and timeless truths that we must reaffirm as Christian families.

1. We must reaffirm the biblical design for our _____.

When it comes to social relationships, God's moral law begins with the family (Ephesians 5:22-6:4). In God's infinite wisdom, God created the family first and He designed it to be the building block with which He builds the church, nations, governments and other human institutions. In God's divine design, the first people a child knows are his father and mother. God has instituted and intended the family as the first church, the first school and the first government. Disobedience in the home leads to a despising of authority in all its forms. Obedience in the home, on the other hand, leads to respect for parental authority, respect for civil authority and even respect for leadership within the church.

God's blueprint for the family not only entails honoring biblical authority, but also honoring biblical biology which is God's design for one's gender identity assigned at birth. In Ephesians 5 and 6, the Apostle Paul is gender-specific in his instruction about marriage roles and domestic relationships. God's Word emphasizes the biological male-female distinction as the fundamental basis for the natural family. Our maleness and femaleness is a fixed reality designed and designated by God from our birth. Our identity is not for us to create or to choose for ourselves. Our gender identity is created and chosen for us by our Creator God (Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Ephesians 5:31; Psalm 139:13-14).

2. We must reaffirm the blessing of _____ over our family.

We cannot succeed and thrive as a strong and God-honoring family apart from the blessing of Christ's Lordship over our homes (Ephesians 6:1-4; 5:22-23; 1:21). We cannot win against the culture's assault on Christian morality and gender identity if Jesus is not the Lord of our families. We cannot succeed against Satan's relentless assaults against our own family if Jesus is not the Lord of our homes. Praise God, Jesus, our victorious Lord and triumphant King, is the One leading the charge in defending our family and children against Satan and his evil forces. Therefore, we can always be strong in the Lord and the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10).
