“WHAT ON EARTH IS GOD DOING?”
A BRIEF THEOLOGY OF THE FAMILY’S ROLE IN DISCIPLESHIP AND EVANGELISM

FOR 2020 CHURCH OF OUR LORD’S VIRTUAL CONVOCATION

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1. CREATION BEGINS WITH A MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILY IN VIEW.

MATTHEW 1:1 "THE BOOK OF THE GENERATION OF JESUS CHRIST..."
CREATION – A MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILY IS IN VIEW

**Genesis 1:27-28** “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: …”

**Acts 17:26** "From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live."

“Family of origin is God’s foundation for spiritual formation”
Genesis 9:7-9  As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.” Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him:  9  “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you

Genesis 12:1-3  The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

“Only 8 souls saved after 40 to 50 years building an ark” But it was a nuclear, generational family.
God designed the family as an essential engine of evangelism.

The first command in scripture: “Be fruitful, increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it.” Gen. 1:28

Right from the time he created human kind He told us what He wanted.

He told Adam and Eve He wanted the world filled with His people, filled with worship, and the mission involved families passing on the faith.

**FAMILY – A CENTER FOR EVANGELISM**

The Faith Plan Is A Family Plan

Marriage (Husband & Wife) Is the Basic Dyad of Family

1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of Prayer, 1st century evangelist were cited as turning the world upside down with their message.

Answered Prayer is Crucial In Evangelism
MARRIAGE, THE BASIC DYAD OF FAMILY

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

John 13:35

A Husband doesn’t look good when His Wife looks bad!
A Wife doesn’t look good when Her Husband looks bad!

we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Jesus

Head of the Church
Savior of the Church
Loved the Church
Gave Himself

Husband

Head of the wife
Body of the body (wife)
Self-sacrifice

Glorified together

Christ doesn’t look good when the church looks bad!
The church doesn’t look good when Christ looks bad!

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Rom. 8:17
FAMILY: A CENTER FOR PASSING ON THE FAITH

The Shema: Jewish Confession of Faith

Deut. 6:4-9 (11:13-21) & (Num. 15:37-41)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
FAMILY – A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Shema means to “hear”

Devoted Parents In Charge

1. Hearing - Hear, O Israel (v4a)
2. Having one Lord - The Lord our God, the Lord is one (v4b)
3. Love the one Lord - with all (heart, soul & strength (v5)
4. Internalize – Be in the hearts of parents (v5)
5. Impress – on your children (7a)
Discipling Children

5. Impress - Impress them on your children
1. Talk about them when you sit at home.
2. Talk about them when you walk along the road.
3. Talk about them when you lie down.
4. Talk about them when you get up.
5. Tie them as symbols on your hands.
6. Bind them on your foreheads.
7. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

FAMILY: A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION (DISCIPLESHIP)

“Talk About Them”

3 Learning Styles

1. Auditory – Talk
2. Tactile – Tie & Bind
3. Visual – Write them on …

“Tie them, Bind them, & Write them”

Reminders

God’s plan for the Spiritual formation of the generations – Parents in charge
Children in Training
THE FAMILY’S ROLE & GOAL FROM THE BEGINNING

The family plan is a faith plan where Parents along with their children:

- Model and pass on the love that says, Jesus is our Lord and primary object of our love.
- Makes God’s word and passing on His word the number one priority.
- Make disciples that are able to model the love that says Jesus is Lord and God and His purpose is the number one pursuit.
2. OLD TESTAMENT ENDS WITH A MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILY VERDICT.
Malachi 4:4-6

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. [5] See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. [6] He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Satan’s strategy to Discredit “Our Father in Heaven”

Take “Fathers on earth out” of the live’s of their children
Malachi 2:15-16

You were united to your wife by the Lord. In God’s wise plan, when you married, the two of you became one person in his sight. What does he want? Godly children from your union.

Therefore, guard your passions! Keep faith with the wife of your youth. For the Lord, the God of Israel, says he hates divorce and cruel men. Therefore, control your passions—let there be no divorcing of your wives.
3. THE NEW TESTAMENT (CHURCH) BEGINS WITH A MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILY VISION.

MATTHEW 1:1  "THE BOOK OF THE GENERATION OF JESUS CHRIST..."
Matthew 1:1 (NASB) 1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Acts 2:38-39 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.[39] For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

The three-fold mobilization for multiplication
"You, Your Children, and then, the World"

The primary focus here is multigenerational

God keeps repeating himself in different cultures
Matthew 28:19-20
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Genesis 1
Be Fruitful and multiply
Fill the earth
Subdue it

Matthew 28:19
Make disciples
Of all nations
Teach them to obey everything
I have commanded you.
Effective Evangelism begins within the hearts of those who genuinely love God and genuinely love that which God loves: souls.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, who believes that he should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God love the world enough to provide us with His best: Jesus. In evangelism, believers are called upon to love God by loving what He loves.

Family (including God’s family) is the place designed by God to develop and demonstrate this love.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

By this family if ye have one to another.

Who genuinely love God and genuinely love that which God loves: souls.
4. THE NEW TESTAMENT ENDS STATING A MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILY VISION.

**MATTHEW 1:1** “I JESUS ...I AM THE ROOT AND THE OFFSPRING OF DAVID, ...”
Jesus closes Scripture with a multigenerational victory.

Rev. 22:16

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

His-Story is a narrative about the Creation, Salvation, and Preservation of His Generational (Family).
SUMMATION

God's Plan is:
A Mission Field Call Home
Rev. 22:16

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

Jesus closes the Scripture with a Multigenerational Victory

God Creates the world with a multigenerational family in View.
The Old Testament ends with a multigenerational family Verdict.
The New Testament Church begins with a multigenerational family Vision.
Scripture ends with the mention of a multigenerational family Victory.

Summation:

"...And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:..."
Ge. 1:28

"...And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse..."
Ma. 4:6

"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."
Acts 2:39

"I Jesus ...I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." Rev. 22:16
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOD DOING?

- **Creation begins with the Multigenerational Family in View**
- **The OT ends with a Multigenerational Family Verdict**
- **The NT begins with a Multigenerational Family Vision**
- **The NT Ends with a Multigenerational Family Victory**
WHAT ON EARTH SHOULD THE CHURCH BE DOING?

To help families get back in sync with
God’s evangelistic plan for the family
THE CHURCH FAMILY’S ROLE IN EVANGELISTIC GOALS

• A call to Action
• How leaders and members of the church family should be thinking in order to support families fulfill their evangelistic purpose within the body of Christ.
• Growing the church verses going to the church.
WHAT ON EARTH SHOULD THE CHURCH BE DOING?

• As Designer, God knows – and every honest psychologist knows:
  • The family of origin is the single most important experience in a person’s life. “The Faith Plan is a Family Plan”

• God is concerned about how the story of one generation impacts the future of another generation.

• Everyday life is God’s plan for the school of spiritual formation in the family.

• This is a lost art among Christians in our culture for various reasons:
  • Families are busy.
  • Parents think disciplining their children is a professional’s job.
  • Parents aren’t sure how to be the primary faith influence.
WHAT ON EARTH SHOULD THE CHURCH BE DOING (TO HELP)?

*Jesus did not come to build better synagogues, He came to build better people*

• **Focus** on building better people through building strong families and less on building better Churches & Organizations.

• **Strive** to be more like a family and less like a corporation in feel and structure. The Church must do business but it’s not a Business.

• To help families - If the church of the past embraced the business-centered environment the churches of the present and beyond must embrace a home-centered thrust. The feel and structure should say “Welcome Home.”
GOING TO CHURCH
Matthew 5:16

Let **your light** so shine before men, that they may see **your good works**, and glorify **your Father** which is in heaven.
What on Earth should the Church Family be doing to help families fulfill their God-ordained purpose.

1. Defining God’s Purpose For Family

   • Family Building Blocks
     - Nuclear
     - Generational
     - Household of Faith
     - Traditional
     - Contemporary
     - Modern
     - Children
     - Parent(s)
     - Married
     - Unmarried

   • Crucibles: Places and-or situations where concentrated forces interact on families to cause or influence change and-or development:
     - Family & Church Collaboration

2. Strengthening Families

3. Protecting Families

Evangelism

Theology of Family

Traits Of Healthy Families

Social Structures

Emerging Family Patterns

Family & Church Collaboration

Family Building Blocks

Changing Family

The Family as a Multi-Generational Social Unit

Physical & Spiritual Non-Traditional, Contemporary, Modern Emerging Family Patterns
COOLJC DID NOT POP UP OVERNIGHT AND SPEAKING AGRICULTURALLY. SINCE 1919 EVANGELISTIC FARMERS HAVE BEEN SOWING THE SEEDS OF THE WORD OF GOD AND THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN SPROUTING AND GROWING UP FOR OVER 100 YEARS. BY GOD'S GRACE WE HAVE STOOD AND WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME. OVER 100 YEARS LATER AND SEVERAL GENERATIONS LATER, WE ARE STILL HERE: MAINLY BECAUSE THOSE WHO EVANGELIZED WERE ENERGIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THEREFORE THEY DID NOT COMPROMISE THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD. THE WRITTEN WORD WILL BE HERE LONG AFTER HEAVEN AND EARTH PASSES AWAY. IT'S NOT BY CHANCE OR Accident THAT THE BOOK OF ACTS RECORDS HOW THE WORD GREW, EVEN WHEN THE NUMBERS DID NOT SUGGEST GROWTH.

THOSE THAT GLADLY RECEIVED THE WORD WERE BAPTIZED. **ACTS 2:41**
AND THE WORD OF GOD INCREASED. **ACTS 6:7**
BUT THE WORD OF GOD GREW AND MULTIPLIED. **ACTS 12:23-24**
SO MIGHTILY GREW THE WORD OF GOD AND PREVAILED. **ACTS 19:20**
WHEN THE SEED OF THE WORD IS SOWN, AND PROPERLY WATERED (IN THIS CASE DISCIPLESHIP) IT WILL EVENTUALLY GROW TO YIELD MUCH FRUIT.

YES OVER 100 YEARS LATER WE ARE STILL HERE AND COMMITTED TO MAKING BIBLICAL BASED EVANGELISM THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF OUR MINISTRY EFFORTS. THERE ARE MANY TECHNIQUES AND PERSPECTIVE OF HOW-TO DISCIPLE AND GROW CONGREGATIONS. BUT I LEAVE THESE ENCOURAGING WORDS TO ALL WHO HAVE A HEART FOR MAKING AN IMPACT THROUGH EVANGELISM. COLOSSIANS 3:17 AND WHATEVER YOU DO IN WORD OR DEED, DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM. WHEN THIS IS DONE, IT IS ASSURANCE THAT GENERATIONS LATER, GOD WILL STILL BE GIVING THE INCREASE LONG AFTER MULTIPLE GENERATIONS DECREASE.
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