

Godly Offspring

June 25th & 26th, 2016

Malachi 2:15

“Did He not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. . . .”

Why is it important to understand God’s design for marriage and the family?

Why should we change our attitudes and habits to line up with God’s Word?

In 1 Corinthians 10:31 we read, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God.” God has created us to accomplish His good works (Ephesians 2:10). As Christians we respond to God’s love and forgiveness, and our new life in Christ by living our lives out according to His design and purposes! (1 John 2:3) We are to grow in our knowledge of God and our understanding of His amazing grace! (2 Peter 3:18)

It is vitally important for us to understand...

... The Purpose of God for marriage

- ❖ God created male and female.

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

- ❖ God gave the ability to reproduce.

Genesis 1:28 “And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

↳ God determines the DNA of the child in the womb at conception!

Psalms 139:13-14 “For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.”

- ❖ God’s desire is for Godly offspring. *Malachi 2:15*

Godly: (Greek – eusebeia) ...characterized by a Godward attitude, having a desire to do what is well-pleasing to God.¹

... The Preparation for Godliness

- ❖ God revealed Himself to Israel.

Exodus 6:6 “Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.’”

↳ Israel had been in Egypt for over 400 years immersed in a polytheistic culture! *Exodus 12:40-41*

↳ God revealed Himself to both Egypt (*Exodus 12:12*) and Israel through the plagues and the great deliverance of God’s people through the Red Sea! (*Exodus 15:1-2*)

↳ God revealed His design for Godliness through the giving of His Law and Precepts to Israel on Mt. Sinai. (*Exodus 20-32*)

- ❖ God alone reveals Himself to people! *Acts 9:1-9*

- ❖ God alone can give the ability to understand His Word!

1 Corinthians 2:14 “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

... The Promotion of Godliness to the next generation

Promote: "To forward; to advance;..."²

- ❖ God's design to promote His plan and purposes to the next generation is through parents together with God's people!

📖 Deuteronomy 4:1-10

↳ Joshua took God's Word seriously.

Joshua 24:14-15 "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

↳ The generation after Joshua did not take God's Word seriously!

📖 Judges 2:10

📖 Deuteronomy 5:29; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Isaiah 59:21-22 "And as for Me, this is my covenant with them," says the Lord: "My Spirit that is upon you, and My words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the Lord, "from this time forth and forevermore."

- ❖ Understanding the magnificence of God's design for marriage and the family, which is to perpetuate His Eternal Word and the revelation of His will and purpose to our children, is the reason we have:
 - ✓ VBS
 - ✓ Sports Camp
 - ✓ Children's Ministries (Children's church; Faith Builders; Programs)
 - ✓ Youth Ministries
 - ✓ Christian School

Godly Offspring is the Crown!

"Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved."

Philippians 4:1

Endnotes:

¹ Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

² Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

♦ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.