

Biblical Families for the Glory of God and the Advancement of His Kingdom Kafue Baptist, Zambia 10-23-11

Hook: If you are a born again into a living relationship with Jesus Christ I have a question for you. Why are you alive today? Why did God even put man here when He was already complete in and of Himself? What is your purpose? Is your life about you and here and now or is it part of something much bigger than you can see?

Bible says God is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

Yesterday at our Marriage seminar we looked at the very beginning of earth we saw that **immediately** upon creating Adam and Eve God brought her to the man and they were married. This was the beginning of earth. The Alpha.

My wife and a few of my children have tendency to sneak a peak at the end of a book they are reading to see in advance how the story ends. They do this because knowing the end can sometimes help the story itself make more sense.

Today my message is titled **Biblical Families for the Glory of God and the Advancement of His Kingdom** In order to see the ultimate purpose and function for the Christian family I think we need to be like my wife and consider how the story of the earth ends. God has told us in His word how all of this ends. We are not randomly here without a purpose but this is all going somewhere. How does this story that you and I are a part of end?

READ Revelations: 7:9 – 12 and 15 to 17

That is the Omega, the end of the story of Earth. We are here as Christ ones, Christians not for ourselves but we are here to worship God with our lives now and forever and then to help others become true worshipers as well. Nothing is greater. Nothing else satisfies like this.

Yesterday we had a wonderful time looking at what the Bible says about Marriage. We covered a lot of ground. I started our seminar off with explaining what it means to maintain a high view of Marriage. This morning I want to challenge you that we must also maintain a high view of family because in addition to the Church the single greatest way in which God has chosen to build His kingdom and spread His glory in all the earth is through families.

Families are the building block of societies and Churches. Families who are on fire for Christ and honoring him will draw others naturally to Christ. God has chosen to use the family structure to grow His Kingdom in a powerful way.

This morning I want to examine two areas from the Bible.

1. Why should we have children?
2. How does a Godly Family operate?

1. Why should we have children? What are the Biblical reasons?

READ Psalm 127: 3-5 and Psalm 128: 3-6

- a. [127:3] - **Heritage from the Lord.** Another translation says children are a blessing of the Lord.

- **How many gifts from the Lord do you want?** Children are not given to us to make us look good or to give us status. They are given by God as gifts to us to make Him look good (give Him glory) and to one day become worshipers of Him. This is why at almost every turn in the OT, starting with Adam and Eve God was telling his people to be fruitful and multiply.
- **Heritage** = means not just this generation but also multiple generations. The theme of the story of the earth from the Alpha to the Omega is the Faithfulness of God to His people He has called out to redeem for His purposes. Faithfulness of God is woven throughout the centuries and it is seen and passed down through the generations. God's plan is for His faithfulness to be passed down through our children to our children's children and beyond. TELL STORY God's people finally crossing over the Jordan into the Promise Land after all they had endured. God led them all through the Jordan and immediately before anything else happened God wanted His people to remember His faithfulness for generations to come.

READ Joshua 4: 1-7.

- b. [127:4 and 5] **Children are like arrows in hand of a warrior** and the man who fills his quiver with them is blessed.

1. **Picture here is a warrior fighting.** Who is the warrior and what is the fight? The warrior is the man of God; the man who represents the Kingdom of Christ on the earth and the battle is God's battle over Satan to bring many people from every tongue, tribe and Nation out of sin and death's dominion into a new life of worship and service to the Lord Jesus Christ. As Godly men we are God's warriors fighting the Lord's battle and we need a quiver full of arrows in this battle and our arrows are our children. Shame on parents for looking everywhere for a ministry and wanting to evangelize while sometimes overlooking the harvest field of their children. Their salvation should be our highest priority. As arrows, Lord willing, they will be in flight long after we are gone!

2. The more arrows a warrior has the better he can fight this battle. God wants His people to be fruitful and multiply because the enemy is! Share facts of Muslims from North Africa migrating into France ... birthrates...in two generations France will be a Muslim Nation.

c. 128: 3 **Wife will be a fruitful vine within your house.**

- **Key word is wife.** This does not apply to an unmarried woman with many children otherwise the Bible would not have used the word wife ... this is the picture of a family that is highly blessed by God.
- **Why is a wife with many children like a fruitful vine?** This is a sign of a woman whose two creative purposes are being fulfilled. **First** she is married so we know she is helper to her husband in many ways not the least of which is helping him fight the Lord's battle. **Secondly** she is being fruitful and multiplying which is also something only as a woman she can do. This is a picture of blessing and fullness for a woman as she lives out her two purposes for being created by her God.

So why should we have children? Three reasons why those of us are married should consider having a lot of Children through the womb or through fostering or through adoption are because Children are: **1.** A Heritage from the Lord **2.** Arrows in the hand of a warrior **3.** A picture of a family richly blessed by God and at the center of it is the wife as a fruitful vine living out the fullness of her life as a woman and a wife.

Lastly, how does a family wanting to live for Christ operate? Just like a strong marriage takes a lot of work so does a strong Christ honoring family. **Remember** we have an enemy who is always against us when we are serious about living for Christ. There are three things that must take place in a Christ centered home. Our passage this morning is **Ephesians 6: 1- 4.** This is right where we left off yesterday.

- a. **First**, the Marriage must be priority. No shortcuts here. Analogy of being on an airplane if emergency and oxygen pressure goes away If you loose your marriage the effects on your children will be enormous and it will take them years to recover. I know from experience.
- b. **Second**, our children must be taught to obey. This takes a lot of work by both parents. Not only is it important because undisciplined children are NOT helpful in the Lord's battle because they are then a negative witness for the Gospel but as our passage teaches us it is best for them. "It will go well with them" **Why?** So when they grow up they will then OBEY GOD!

- c. **Thirdly**, although the role that both parents play is important perhaps, the roles the Father plays in the life of a child in the home has the greatest impact for the child loving God one day or NOT loving God one day. (VERY POWERFUL) I cannot explain this but based on Bible this is how God designed it. Here are four scriptures to show this.

1. Exodus 20: 5-6 right in the middle of the ten commandments we see that the sins of the fathers have an impact on many generations and those Fathers that love and serve God that is passed down too.
2. Ephesians 6: 4 "Fathers bring your children up in the fear and admonition of the Lord"
3. Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 this passage contains what Jesus him self said is **the greatest of all the commandments**. To love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your might! God is commanding families here to take serious the responsibility of discipling their own children.

Although the Church can help here the responsibility is on the parents with the Father leading the way. This is God's design and we have drifted far from it. Many men are not engaged in their children's lives and are off pursuing "important matters" The Bible is clear that while your children are in your home there are no more "important matters". A father who understands this will radically change his PRIOTITIES!

This text tells us to be very intentional as parents with our children in teaching them the ways of the Lord when we sit in our homes, walk by the way (throughout the day), when you lie down (nighttime) and when you rise. (The morning) This encompasses all of the day and needs to be every day.

The BATTLE NEVR STOPS RAGING! There are many ways for us to do this and once you see the mandate you will decide what is best but I want to encourage you in your home to recover the lost art of Family Worship. I want to urge you Fathers to have family worship at home as many times in the week as possible and stick with it! Lastly fathers I want you to spend one on one time with each of your children teaching them about life and engaging with them.

4. The last verse of the morning and what I want to end with is THE LAST VERSE OF THE ENTIRE OT. Malachi 4: 5 and 6

What is the big deal fathers and mothers and families? It is the battle we began talking about. We are here to fight this battle for the Lord. The family is not only one of God's most precious gifts to man kind but it is also His most strategic weapon in the Battle for the growing Kingdom of God.

Church, lets give our lives to this Battle. I want to end by sharing a quote that shows my heart's purpose for my life and for my family. It is my desire that we as a Church and more specifically that my children would each come to embrace the spirit of what the famous missionary Jim Elliot, who ended up dying as a Missionary said.

"He is no fool who gives up that which he can not keep, to gain that which he cannot loose"

To God be the Glory. Amen!