

THEOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

Definition of theology: the study of the nature of God and religious belief

The Bible teaches that the family is the basic cell of society.

Theological overview of a family:

- What is God's purpose for life and family?
be successful (more toys, education, get rich) vs. be a light to the world
- God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden to care for it and multiply (Genesis 1:28)
 - BE FRUITFUL
 - MULTIPLY
 - FILL and GOVERN the Earth.

FAMILY - DO YOU SEE IT?

Satan's plot to destroy the family:

- Adam and Eve (Fall of Man) - beginning of the decay of the individual/family
- Cain and Abel - *“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”* Genesis 4:7 NIV
- *“If we do what is right...?”* - Helps us to develop a proper theology of parenting.

***This means we now have the responsibility
to teach our children what is right and wrong.***

With the lapse of time, everyone goes their own way before God calls out a people:

- Abraham's family worshiped idols. (Joshua 24:2)
- God called them out! *“The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.’”* Genesis 12:1-3

God's desire was to work through families.

Building upon the concept of family, God wants to set apart a community dedicated to Him and His ways:

- God revealed Himself to these people at Mt. Sinai by establishing principles to guide them: Laws of Moses - birthrights, obligations, responsibilities, rules to follow
- He calls these families out to become a distinct community and a nation: *“I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt.”* Exodus 6:7
- God wants to gather His children, free them from slavery, and show them that He and He alone is GOD ALMIGHTY.
- God's desire is to use the family to bring His message to the world.

“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.” Exodus 19:4-6

Now we have a purpose or foundation to build upon!

We are God's “kingdom of priests,” a “holy nation:”

- Therefore, we must be diligent in raising our families and children to reflect God's Glory
- The family is the unit God created to reveal His purposes!
 - families are mini congregations
 - families joining together create community
 - communities joining together create nations
 - nations joining together to honor and reflect His glory

***THIS REPRESENTS THE KINGDOM OF GOD
THAT WILL EXTEND FOR ETERNITY***