

“the image of God”

Genesis 1:27

The Family

BFM 2000

“the image of God”

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

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The Family

“God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.”

Baptist Faith & Message 2000

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“The family was defined by God as the foundational institution of human society. From the beginning, God has used the family as the primary classroom and as the foremost object lesson for teaching His people about Himself and for challenging them to the holy lifestyle He demands.”

“Before there were civil governments or assemblies of worship, God established the home by creating the man and the woman and bringing them together in the Garden of Eden to engage in spiritual ministry through companionship, dominion, procreation, and worship.”

BFM Commentary on Article 18

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Marriage

“Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.”

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Genesis 2:20b-24

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” **24** For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

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Matthew 19:3-6

3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” **4**

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’

5 and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? **6** So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

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“God's purpose for marriage was introduced in creation and then reaffirmed in the Gospels and the Pauline epistles. This biblical principle for marriage transcends time and culture.

Marriage, according to Scripture, is a covenant commitment to the exclusive, permanent, monogamous union of one man and one woman, and thus it cannot be defined as a flexible contract between consenting human beings.

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Hebrews 13:4

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

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“Human sexuality is one of the most explosive forces on earth. The Bible establishes marriage as the only proper area for and channel of sexual expression.”

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1 Corinthians 7:2-5

2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. **3** The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.

4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone, body but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. **5** Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

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“The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family.”

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Ephesians 5:25-33a

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29**

After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — **30** for we are members of his body. **31** “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

32 This is a profound mystery—
but I am talking about Christ
and the church. **33** However,
each one of you also must love
his wife as he loves himself,

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“A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God - given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.”

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Ephesians 5:22-24, 33b

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23**

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

33 and the wife must respect her husband.

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Ephesians 5:21

**Submit to one another out
of reverence for Christ.**

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“Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage.

Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.”

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Psalm 139:13-16

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. **14** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. **16** Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

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Ephesians 6:1-4

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** “Honor your father and mother”— which is the first commandment with a promise — **3** “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Applications

- **Family was and is created by God**
- **Marriage was and is created and ordained by God**
- **Children are a blessing from God**
- **We must stand for God's definition of family and marriage**

Final Thoughts

“We live in a time when the definition of family is a matter of political and social controversy and the culture is confused about the definition of marriage. Christians bear the unique responsibility to tell the truth, to live the truth, and to bear witness to God’s loving intention in establishing marriage and family for our good.”

“God gave us marriage and family for our happiness and our health, but He also created them as structures of accountability so we can live holy lives, demonstrating His character, love, and wisdom as we fulfill all the responsibilities and roles assigned to marriage and the family.”

Final Thoughts

Romans 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! **34** “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”

35 “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” **36** For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.