



When tradition tears:

1. Family is "super hard"
2. I've already oversteered
3. Broken families all around me
4. The single or other gender choice? What to be serious
5. Engaged couples: "I'm going to do this, right?"
6. None of my married friends are happy
7. Is marriage really necessary?
8. Family? Don't you be defining it again or something else? It's a harmful notion.
9. Seeking happiness requires what Jesus says.
10. Why is this such a big deal?

What do we do now?

Two Options:

1. Invent a new technique
2. Return to an original purpose

God is always pushing to PURPOSE "For His REASON..."

Author's Note

Over the years, I've seen many families struggle with these issues. I believe that the most important thing is to stay focused on the purpose of the family. The purpose of the family is to love and care for each other, and to reflect the love of God. This is the reason why we are here. It is the reason why we should stay together. It is the reason why we should love each other. It is the reason why we should be happy. It is the reason why we should be successful. It is the reason why we should be blessed. It is the reason why we should be content. It is the reason why we should be at peace. It is the reason why we should be in good health. It is the reason why we should be in good luck. It is the reason why we should be in good fortune. It is the reason why we should be in good luck. It is the reason why we should be in good fortune. It is the reason why we should be in good luck. It is the reason why we should be in good fortune.

1. Family is a creation and a covenant

James 1:19 - **Be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.**

The family is a creation and a covenant. It is a reflection of the love of God. It is the reason why we are here. It is the reason why we should stay together. It is the reason why we should love each other. It is the reason why we should be happy. It is the reason why we should be successful. It is the reason why we should be blessed. It is the reason why we should be content. It is the reason why we should be at peace. It is the reason why we should be in good health. It is the reason why we should be in good luck. It is the reason why we should be in good fortune. It is the reason why we should be in good luck. It is the reason why we should be in good fortune.

Engage Yourself

What is your family's purpose? How do you reflect the love of God? How do you stay together? How do you love each other? How do you be happy? How do you be successful? How do you be blessed? How do you be content? How do you be at peace? How do you be in good health? How do you be in good luck? How do you be in good fortune? How do you be in good luck? How do you be in good fortune?

Reflecting the Kingdom

People and godliness thrive when families reflect the kingdom.

Engaging the Culture

2. Family reflects the Kingdom

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★ ONWARD ★

**ENGAGING THE CULTURE
WITHOUT
LOSING THE GOSPEL**

highpointchurch.org/onward ★ Based on the book by Russell Moore



FAMILY STABILITY



WEEK 6







When tradition tears:

1. Family is "super hard"
2. I've already screwed up
3. Broken families all around me
4. I'm single—the other gender doesn't seem to be serious.
5. Engaged couples: "I'm going to do this. Help!?"
6. None of my married friends are happy.
7. Is marriage really necessary?
8. "Family" like you're defining it is just a construct—one that is a harmful fiction.
9. Securing happiness requires what Jesus rejects.
10. Why is this such a big deal?

What do we do now?

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2. Return to an original purpose.

God is always pointing to PURPOSE.
"For this REASON..."

Matthew 19:3-9

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." 7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" 8 Jesus replied, "Moses **permitted** you to divorce your wives **because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.** 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

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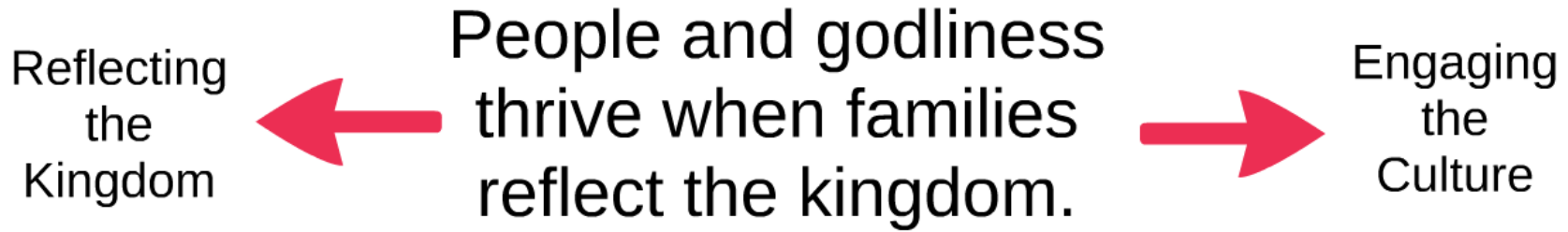
1. Family is a creation not a construct

Genesis 1-5 → Matthew 19

"Your romantic partner is not enough to fill your heart with passion, joy and fortitude in family life. They are the **wrong focus**, because they will often be the **main problem.**"

Engage Yourself

Be romantic about creation, redemption, and the kingdom. Let their noble purposes fill your home.



Reflecting the Kingdom through creation:
God's special covenant with Noah and his sons.
Moses' law and the Levitical law.
The New Testament's teaching on family.
The family as a reflection of God's kingdom.
The family as a reflection of God's love.
The family as a reflection of God's grace.
The family as a reflection of God's mercy.
The family as a reflection of God's kindness.
The family as a reflection of God's gentleness.
The family as a reflection of God's patience.
The family as a reflection of God's goodness.
The family as a reflection of God's faithfulness.
The family as a reflection of God's love.

2. Family reflects the kingdom (as creation)

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Engage the Culture

"slow motion sinners" to "strange saints"

Reflecting the Kingdom

1. Family is a creation not a construct

Genesis 1-5  Matthew 19

Genesis 1-5
The first five chapters of the Bible describe the creation of the world and the early history of humanity. It covers the period from the beginning of time to the birth of Noah.

4 'one flesh' horizons:
1. The vertical union of heaven and earth
2. Man and woman in marriage - complementarity
3. Man and woman in creation - solidarity
4. The son of man made flesh - the mystery
Genesis 1-5:1-2

Genesis 3-5: Breakdown
Genesis 3: The great fall
Genesis 4-5: The great sibling rivalry
Genesis 6-11: Genesis and the mystery
*Made possible: Genesis 3-5:1-5
*The great fall: Genesis 3:1-5

"Of Asia and the way from the beginning..."
The beginning of the world and the beginning of the human race. It covers the period from the beginning of time to the birth of Noah.

Matthew 19
The 19th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, which is part of the Synoptic Gospels. It contains Jesus' teachings on marriage and divorce, and the parable of the speck and the log.

Family is a creation not a const

Genesis 1-5



Matthew 19

Genesis 2:21-25

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and all of his ribs were taken out of his right side, and covered up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib that had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said: "This is one of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

4 "one flesh" horizons:

1. The woman came out of the man - creation
2. Man and woman in marriage - covenant/union
3. Man and woman in children - fruitfulness
4. The son of man made flesh - the incarnation (fruit of the woman... Gen 3:20)

Genesis 3-5: Breakdown

Genesis 3 - the great divorce
Genesis 4:1-16 - the great sibling rivalry
Genesis 4:17ff - Lamech and polygamy

"Misses permitted... because your hearts were hard." - Matthew 19:8

"...it was not this way from the beginning..."

Timeline:

1. Genes come into being - ability for evolution
2. If family is an evolved and better institution because it is a child facilitator
3. You can honor God by not getting married
4. Broke family? Creation ideal - not getting married
5. Other options? etc...

Matthew 19:12

For the kingdom of heaven is like a yeast that a woman took and hid in three measures of wheat flour. As the yeast leavened the whole batch of flour, so it will be. [Matthew 13:33](#)

Jesus replied, "No one can enter the kingdom of heaven unless they become like children. Whoever makes themselves like this child will enter the kingdom of heaven." [Matthew 18:3](#)

Genesis 2:21-25

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 closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 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." **For this reason** a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will ***become one flesh***. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

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"...it was not this way from the beginning..."

Timeline:

1. Genesis creation story is clearly heterosexual
2. If family is an abused and broken institution because it is a child's foundation
3. You can't trust God by not getting married
4. Broken family? Creation story + wedding the night
5. Other options? Am...

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For the kingdom of heaven is like a yeast that a woman took and hid in three measures of wheat flour. As the yeast leavened the whole batch of flour, so the Son of Man will leaven the whole system of the world. (Matthew 13:33)

"...it was not this way from the beginning..."

Therefore:

1. Gender complementarity is utterly fundamental
2. If family is an attacked and broken institution because it is a divine institution
3. You can honor God by not getting married
4. Broken family? Creation ideal + redemptive angle
5. Other options? um...



Matthew 19:9-12

I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery." The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. For some are **eunuchs** because they were **born that way**; others were **made that way** by men; and others have **renounced marriage because of the kingdom** of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

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1. Family is a creation not a construct

Genesis 1-5  Matthew 19

Genesis 1:1-5
1. The world was not at the time of creation
2. The world was created by God
3. The world was created in six days
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*Make parables, fables, and stories
*The book of the law - Matthew 23

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Reflecting the kingdom through creation:

- **Gender** represents complementarity and diversity between us and in God.
- **Marriage** reflects Christ and the church.
- **Covenant** represents the tenacity of God's commitment.
- **Parenting** reflects our relation to God - love, authority and superiority.
- **Children** represent the gift of giving life, provision, delighting in another, acceptance of responsibility, the expandability of life, etc.
- **Provision** of husband represents "a place prepared for us."

2. Family reflects the kingdom *(as creation)*

**Therefore: Misuse of creation
tells lies about the kingdom.**

- Sex outside of covenant "represents a Christ who uses the church without joining her, covenantally, to himself"
- Children treated as expenses, abused, ignored or abandoned teach that God ignores, abuses, abandons and sees us as an inconvenience.
- Divorce reflects the limits of God's longsuffering nature.
- Unhappy marriages say holiness doesn't bring happiness.
- Gender, delayed commitment, etc...

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"Moses **permitted** you to divorce your wives **because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.** 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

"Your romantic partner is not enough to fill your heart with passion, joy and fortitude in family life. They are the **wrong focus**, because they will often be the **main problem.**"

1. Family is a creation not a construct

Genesis 1-5 → Matthew 19

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Reflecting
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People and godliness
thrive when families
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Engaging
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Culture

Reflecting the Kingdom through creation
"And he said to the disciples, 'Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. So you must be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.'"

"People who oppose us on family issues aren't conspiring against us; they don't understand God's kingdom that family reflects, they are 'seeking a way that seems right to them.'"

-Russell Moore

2. Family reflects the kingdom (as creation)

Revelation 19:1-2
"I, John, saw these things, and I heard these things. And when I heard these things, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, 'Do not do that. I am your fellow servant and your brothers the prophets and those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.'"

Engage the Culture

"slow motion sinners" to "strange saints"



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Revelation 21:3
"The dwelling of God is with men and he himself will live with them. He himself will be with them and be their God. And they themselves will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God."

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"slow motion sinners" to "strange saints"

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