

A CHURCH WITH A SPINE

Sunday, June 8, 2021 -- FAMILY CAMP -- msg 4 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman & Pastor Lucas Almeida

In every age there tends to be one or two issues that test the resolve and faithfulness of God's people. Past issues that have tested God's people have been...

- worshipping other gods
- standing apart from godless nations
- true care for the weak, oppressed and the poor (justice)
- speaking truth to religious power
- speaking truth to political power
- speaking truth to economic power

At the present time the church is being tested as to whether or not it will be faithful regarding His DESIGN of the family and the ROLES that are to be played by its members.

In our society the roles of the family are confused, distorted and dysfunctional.

- There is an aversion to order.
- There is an abdication of responsibility.
- There is an aversion to authority.
- A toxic masculinity has led to the rejection of all masculinity.
- There is an exaltation of a distorted femininity over the beauty of God's balance.

WHY FOCUS SO MUCH ON GENESIS 1 AND 2?

1. We see God's CREATIVITY.

Beauty, artistry, discipline

Psalm 19:1—*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

2. We see God's MORALITY.

The seed for every commandment we have received from God in his word is found in the two opening chapters of Scripture.

The greatest foundation for all biblical morality is rooted in the fact that God created us in his image.

Leviticus 19:2—*“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”*

“Biblically speaking, it is God, as Creator of a morally ordered universe, and as an absolutely perfect being, who is the author of morality (Gen. 2:17). It is God who endowed the creation with norms and standards and holds its inhabitants answerable to him (Gen. 3:17; Ps. 33:13–15).”

Dieumeme Noelliste, ESV Study Bible

WHY DOES THIS MATTER FOR FAMILY CAMP?

1. Families reflect God's creativity.

In Genesis 1 and 2 we see the Triune God at work **together** in the creation of the universe. And in these very chapters God instructs man and women to work **together** to continue his creative work.

2. Families display God's character.

The main channel God uses to fill the earth with his glory is the reproduction of his image bearers through birth and family discipleship

Genesis 1:28 *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..."*

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.*

*"Most foundationally, marriage is the doing of God.
And ultimately, marriage is the display of God."
—John Piper, This Momentary Marriage*

BIBLICAL FAMILY ROLES

The roles of the family are rooted in the roles of the persons of the Trinity.

Two pillars that uphold the trinity: EQUALITY and DISTINCTION.

Equality in nature, distinction in roles.

The **Father** plans/sends.

The **Son** accomplishes.

The **Spirit** applies/helps.

We call these roles **COMPLEMENTARIANISM**.

The roles of the family was established before the fall.

Genesis 2:15—*The LORD God took the **MAN** and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

Genesis 2:18—*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*

The fall adds a new dynamic to the roles of husbands and wives: **SIN**.

There were many consequences to this act of rebellion. One of them is that husbands and wives will experience conflict among themselves as they relate to one another.

Genesis 3:16b—*Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."*

HUSBANDS are called by God to:

Love/Lead

Ephesians 5:25–27—*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, [26] that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, [27] so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

Protect/Provide

1 Peter 3:7—*Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Genesis 3:19—*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread...*

WIVES are called by God to:

Help/Support

Genesis 2:18— “Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Submit/Follow

Ephesians 5:22–24 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. [24] Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

COMPLEMENTARIANISM... NOT CHAUVINISM

Any philosophy that leads to the mistreatment of women is NOT BIBLICAL!

Ephesians 5:28 *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

“We should labor to show that complementarianism is not merely biblical, but beautiful. Our target is not merely “faithful” or ‘right’; it is also ‘wise’ and ‘winsome.’ [...] Doubtless some will see any expression of complementarianism as a threat. But others may say, upon experiencing church cultures following the example of Christ (including his respect for women), ‘This is beautiful. This makes sense. I see how this can work.’” –Gavin Ortlund

MARRIAGE AS A PICTURE OF THE GOSPEL

Ephesians 5:31–32— “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” [32] This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Marriage is a **billboard** depicting the *love of Christ for his church*. The watching world will look to see the love of God in the way you love one another.

A Christian marriage can preach the gospel to a watching world in a variety of ways:

- The **faithfulness** between a husband and a wife speaks of an ever-faithful God who is always true to his promises.
- The way a husband **sacrifices** his life for his wife (provision, protection, spiritual leadership) points to the sacrifice of Christ, giving up his life so the church can be forgiven of their sin.
- The way a wife **submits** to her husband shows the world the way the church willingly submits to Christ, her Lord.
- The **union** between a husband and a wife demonstrates the way Christ unites himself to the church, giving her a name, an inheritance, and a future.