

1. Men and Women Marry and Have Children to Honor God and Pass Along Our Christian Heritage (Genesis 1:27-28, 9:1; Psalm 127:3-5a)

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

^{5a} Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

2. Teaching Children Obedience and Respect (In a Culture that Demands Just the Opposite) (Proverbs 13:24, 29:17, 30:11, 17)

Proverbs 13:24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

Proverbs 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

Proverbs 30:11 There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers.

17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.

3. God's Best Plan was (and is) the Nuclear Family: a Father, Mother, and Children in One Household (Statistics Don't Lie) (Ephesians 5:31-33, 6:1-3)

Ephesians 5:31 "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.

33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Eph. 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),

3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

