

Remove Not The Ancient Landmarks: Family

Intro: The wise man, and wiser still because he was writing by inspiration of God stated in Proverbs 22:28 “²⁸ Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” This statement can have numerous applications, but in this lesson, I want us to consider the family.

I. GOD ESTABLISHED THE FAMILY

A. God instituted the family at the beginning.

1. God created Adam and then made Eve as a help meet for him.
2. Gen. 2:21-24 “²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; ²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

B. God also established the roles within the family.

1. She was made a help meet for him, not him for her.
2. Gen. 3:16 “¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”
3. 1 Cor. 11:3 “³ But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”
4. Thus, man is the head in the family unit while the woman takes a submissive role in the family.
 - a. Eph. 5:22-23 “²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”
 - b. Col. 3:18-19 “¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.”

C. The family unit is where God established the raising of children.

1. Eph. 6:1-4 “¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ² Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) ³ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. ⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
2. Col. 3:20-21 “²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”

II. ATTACKS AGAINST THE FAMILY TODAY

A. Without controversy, the family is under attack today.

B. The roles within the family unit.

1. God set forth the roles of the husband and wife in the marriage relationship.
2. The emasculation of men in the family.
 - a. According to the American Psychological Association, “emasculation is the removal or reduction of a man’s sense of masculinity by depriving him of culturally approved male roles.”
 - b. This was promoted by the unisex movement and the Equal Rights movement (amendment). (Because of the Feminist movement, today 1 in 3 girls consider suicide.)

- c. Women took on a more masculine role subjecting men to a subservient position and would denigrate any male leadership (toxic masculinity).
- 3. Lack of understanding of the roles has led to the rise of gender dysphoria in our society.
- 4. Views that men are not needed in the family: either in procreation (by artificial insemination) or raising of children.

C. Children raised by a single parent.

- 1. They do not have one of the role models God intended.
- 2. In 2022, in the United States, nearly 24 million children live in single parent family (18.5 million in 2020 according to census bureau).
- 3. According to *MedicineNet* website some of the negative effects:
 - a. Developmental problems (lower grades, and dropout problems)
 - b. Economic hardships (can bring fright, stress, and frustration)
 - c. Psychological effects (various psychiatric illnesses, alcohol abuse, and suicide attempts)
- 4. According to Institute for Family Studies: “Here are some of the well-known risks for children growing up with a single mother compared to their peers in married-couple families: lower school achievement, more discipline problems and school suspension, less high school graduation, lower college attendance and graduation, more crime and incarceration (especially for boys), less success in the labor market, and more likely to become single parents themselves (especially for girls), thereby starting the cycle all over again for the next generation.”

D. Fornication

- 1. It is sinful:
 - a. 1 Cor. 6:18 ¹⁸ “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”
 - b. Gal. 5:19 ¹⁹ “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,”
 - c. Col. 3:5-6 ⁵ “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶ For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:”
- 2. Premarital sex
 - a. God expects moral purity prior to marriage.
 - b. According to statistics:
 - (1) By the 2010s only 5% of new brides were virgins (in America 1970s was 21% and has steadily declined while the number of sexual partners has steadily increased).
 - (2) It was found that those who were virgins when married were happier in their marriage and the divorce rate was lower (the more partners the more likely to divorce).
 - (3) In America, the average is 3 sexual partners before marriage.
- 3. Living together without marriage (cohabitation)
 - a. Likewise, this has been on the increase.
 - b. In 1968 in America:
 - (1) 0.1% of 18–24-year olds were cohabitating.
 - (2) 0.2% of 25–34-year olds were cohabitating.

- c. In 2018 in America:
 - (1) 9% of 18–24-year-olds were cohabitating (only 7% live with a spouse).
 - (2) 15% of 25–34-year-olds were cohabitating.
- d. In 2019 in America, only 14% say it is never acceptable for an unmarried couple to live together while 69% say it is acceptable even if they do not plan on getting married.

E. Divorce

1. Through the years this also has become increasingly prevalent in society.
 - a. The world does not care what God says on the subject.
 - b. The world is only interested in their own self-gratification and satisfaction.
 - c. Government made divorce easy with simple divorce laws resulting in divorce being *acceptable* in society.
2. Instability of the family.
 - a. For every 2 marriages there is 1 divorce.
 - b. Yet, there is still a social stigma attached to divorce and those who are divorced.
3. Instability with the individuals in the family.
 - a. There is the feeling they have not been successful in the most important area of life.
 - b. There are medical, emotional, and psychological effects of the ending of a marriage.
4. This led to the idea of multiple parents.
 - a. The child saying, he has 2 fathers or 2 mothers.
 - b. This led to opening and acceptance of homosexuality.
5. Divorce problems made their way into the church with various false doctrines cropping up (removing the landmarks God established).
 - a. Problems:
 - (1) James Woodroof stated, “I had to make some type of attempt to settle the issue. At which time I went into the Scriptures, I found several principles that allowed me to go about my business of evangelizing.”
 - (2) Goebel Music documented 25 different doctrines concerning divorce in his book on that subject (1987) and said that the list was not exhaustive.
 - (3) It is not my intent in this lesson to attempt to document all the errors regarding divorce, nor to refute such, but to make us aware of the problem.
 - b. James Bales view:
 - (1) Presented in his book *Not Under Bondage*.
 - (2) He argued the world was not amenable to (subject to) the Law of Christ.
 - c. Perversions of 1 Cor. 7:15 “¹⁵ But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.”
 - (1) James Woodroof in his book *The Divorce Dilemma* taught that Paul countermanded Christ.
 - (2) Many state the deserted believer is free from the marriage bond and may Scripturally remarry.
 - d. Abide in the calling in which you are called.
 - (1) 1 Cor. 7:17, 24 “¹⁷ But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.... ²⁴ Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.”

- (2) No matter what marriage one is in, when they become a Christian, they are to remain in that marriage.
- e. Baptism justifies the marriage.
 - (1) Baptism washes away all sin, including the sin of a sinful (unscriptural) marriage.
 - (2) Thus, when one unscripturally divorced before he becomes a Christian, obeys the Gospel, his baptism makes his marriage Scriptural.
- f. Committeth adultery is only breaking the covenant and has nothing to do:
 - (1) With a remarriage.
 - (2) With anything sexual.

F. Adultery

1. Much of what was said regarding fornication can be said of adultery.
2. Most of the Scriptures condemning fornication also condemn adultery.
3. God expects moral purity both before the marriage and during the marriage.

G. Homosexuality

1. God has always condemned homosexuality.
 - a. Sodom and Gomorrah
 - (1) Gen. 19
 - (2) Jude 7 ^{“7} Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”
 - b. Under the Law of Moses, it incurred the death penalty.
 - (1) Lev. 18:22 ^{“22} Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”
 - (2) Lev. 20:13 ^{“13} If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”
 - c. During the New Testament age:
 - (1) Rom. 1:26-27 ^{“26} For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”
 - (2) 1 Cor. 6:9 (NKJV) ^{“9} Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,”
2. Because homosexuals cannot reproduce, they must groom others to become such.
 - a. Among the definitions of groom, the *New Oxford Dictionary* gives this:
 - “2. prepare or train (someone) for a particular purpose or activity:...
 3. form a relationship with (a child or young person) with the intention of sexually assaulting them or inducing them to commit an illegal act such as selling drugs or joining a terrorist organization.”
 - b. On the website *Center for Renewing America*, there is a “Policy Brief: Yes, America’s Institutions Are Grooming Your Children” (May 4, 2022).
 - (1) “Social and sexual messages are routinely imposed against parents’ wishes in a variety of contexts, including: A. Public school teachers’ coercion of children as young as Kindergarteners to participate in gay pride ceremonies explicitly kept secret from parents; B. Disney executives inserting LGBT activities or concepts into programming for seven-year-olds; C. A middle

- school teacher posting social media videos encouraging his students to curse their parents and embrace him as their new parent; D. The content in a commercial aired between children's programming on television; E. Explicit material in a novel aimed at children by an author with an ulterior motive.”
- (2) Some of these efforts target children during their most vulnerable developmental stages—puberty and adolescence—to tragic effect.
 - c. Grooming takes place in the educational system, entertainment industry, government agencies, and almost every area of life today.
3. The homosexual lobby has been and is one of the most powerful lobbies in the world.
 - a. The homosexual movement is revolutionary and designed to overturn traditional cultural values.
 - b. Author Linda Harvey, who runs a pro-family ministry said:
 - (1) “Their goal is nothing less than total suppression of all opposing viewpoints.”
 - (2) “At school, in the media, in books, kids are being urged to consider whether or not they are homosexual at younger and younger ages,” which is why the grooming of kids is taking place.
 - (3) This is being done “to satisfy the goals of adults who want to change society through kids.”
 - c. The social revolution is being done through the courts, government, media, education, and every avenue of society.
 4. Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, a pioneer in reparative therapy said, “Homosexuality is not about sex. It is about a person's sense of himself, about his relationships, how he forms and establishes relationships, his self-identity, his self-image, personal shame, his ability to sustain intimacy. Homosexual behavior is always prompted by an inner sense of emptiness.”
 - a. In 2017, 9 states had banned reparative or conversion therapy for minors.
 - b. Now 22 states and territories have banned it.

H. Pedophilia

1. It is connected with child pornography.
2. Effects on children:
 - a. Physically (Sexually Transmitted Infections—STIs; Urinary tract infections—UTIs; Pregnancy at young age; Unusual smells and bleeding; difficulty walking or sitting; bruises and wounds on genitalia and mouth).
 - b. Psychological and emotional problems exhibiting in behavior problems depending on the child's age, gender, the type of abuse, duration of abuse, who the offender is, degree of violence used, among others.
3. Child pornography is a major part of pedophilia.
4. There have been numerous organizations through the years advocating for pedophilia.
 - a. One of the more well-known in the US is the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA).
 - b. Another organization had the *slogan*: “sex before eight, or else it's too late” (Rene' Guyon Society).
 - c. Organized crime is also involved in the exploitation of children.

- d. A major problem is the illegal aliens and the cartels that allow them to cross the border.
- e. The case of Jerry Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell
 - (1) She was convicted of aiding him to sexually exploit underage girls.
 - (2) Yet not one person who actually exploited the underage girls has been convicted.
 - (a) Some names have been revealed.
 - (i) Jeffrey Epstein's *Little Black Book*—a 97-page contact directory.
 - (ii) It contained over 2,000 names.
 - (iii) According to *The Independent*, "Maxwell's defense attorneys came to an agreement with prosecutors not to release the 97-page directory to the public," citing that not every name would be a client.
 - (b) The clientele (actually friends) reached to some of the highest levels of government and the world's elite.
 - (3) They did not do it for money, but as a pastime with other friends.

I. Polygamy

- 1. This is not as big of a problem in our society.
 - a. It has been at times and with the Mormon religion specifically.
 - b. There are other societies where polygamy is customary.
- 2. Lamech
 - a. He was a wicked man; Gen. 4:23 ²³ And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt."
 - b. He was the first recorded to practice polygamy.
 - c. Gen. 4:19 ¹⁹ And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah."
- 3. Others throughout Old Testament history engaged in the practice.
 - a. God never commanded it.
 - b. God only tolerated it "for the hardness of your hearts."
 - c. Every polygamist in the Bible, including David and Solomon, paid dearly for his sins.

Conclusion: For the church and society to survive, we must get back to the landmarks God established.