

MESSAGE ONE

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Genesis 1:26-28 (NASB)
26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

MESSAGE GOAL:

This sermon will help people understand that God created the family unit to display His Triune image.

INTRODUCTION:

There was a man who noticed some cracks on his living room wall. So he called a painter to repair and cover the cracks. It looked like the painter fixed the problem but a few weeks later the cracks reappeared. So the man called the painter back and he once again covered the cracks with putty and paint. The problem looked like it had been fixed; however, in several more weeks, the cracks came back but this time they brought all their friends. So the man called the painter again. After looking at many more cracks than he had seen before, the painter said, "Sir, I can't help you because you don't have a problem with cracks." The frustrated homeowner said, "Can't you see my living room wall? Of course I have a problem with cracks!" But the painter said, "The problem isn't the cracks in your wall. Your problem is that you have a shifting foundation. The cracks you see on your wall are the symptoms of a deeper issue—the foundation of your house is moving. If you want to fix the cracks, you have to fix your foundation. But unless you fix the problem, you will forever be doing patchwork."

I'm sure that most people in our country agree that our society is crumbling. There are all kinds of cracks—social cracks, economic cracks, and relational cracks. In our society, chaos often describes the state of the family. Relationships between wives and husbands, children and parents are strained. Divorce and redefinitions of the family abound. While there are many

efforts to fix the cracks, they are just the symptoms of a shifting family foundation. The breakdown of the family is the single most basic reason for the disintegration of our society and culture. If we don't solidify the foundation of the family, we will forever be doing social patchwork.

One philosopher put it, "The saga of a nation is the saga of its families written large." That's why when God created the world and originated society He started by establishing a family with a specific purpose in mind. Let's explore God's purpose for the family unit.

SERMON POINTS:

1. RECOGNIZE THAT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR FAMILY IS TO REFLECT HIS KINGDOM. (GENESIS 1:28-30)

- God's kingdom agenda for family is dominion—that the family would reflect God's rule on earth.
- Our society has redefined family so that its purpose is to fulfill our individual happiness and personal fulfillment.
- God created the family to mirror and reflect Him throughout history and to serve as a visual representation of the invisible God on earth.

2. BELIEVE THAT GOD WANTS TO DISPLAY HIS TRIUNE IMAGE THROUGH YOUR FAMILY. (GENESIS 1:26-27)

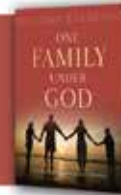
- Our Triune God—Father, Son, and Spirit—made man and woman in His image
- Family is a unit on earth to reflect the unity of the Godhead in heaven.
- God commanded Adam and Eve, the husband and the wife, to be fruitful and multiply and fill the world and history with God's image.
- God wants people to see how the Father, Son, and Spirit work together in harmony by looking at the inner workings of the family.

3. SUBMIT TO GOD BECAUSE HE IS THE HEAD OF YOUR FAMILY.

- Our society has accepted a social definition of family instead of the theological and spiritual definition of family.

our society's problem
is not solely our *government's* problem.
it is **the church's** problem.
it is *our* problem.





- Family is God's idea and He intends to be the authority in every family.
- When God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1), He identified Himself as Elohim, which points to His creative power.
- When God created man and woman and began to explain His relationship with Adam and Eve's family in Genesis 2, He added "the Lord" (Yahweh) to the title "Elohim," which combines a relational element with the creative power of God.
- When God wanted to relate to the family He had created, He used the name "the Lord God" because it points to His power expressed in the context of relationship.

4. UNDERSTAND SATAN'S SCHEMES SO YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM HIS ATTACK

- When Satan showed up to tempt Eve in Genesis 3, Satan left the relational part of God's name (Yahweh, "Lord") out.
- Satan said, in essence, keep your religion, but abandon your relationship with God and don't submit to His authority over you.
- When Adam and Eve fell, sin destroyed their relationships with God and with each other, and as a result the family unit fractured. (Genesis 3:8-19)
- Our society today can accept God, but it doesn't want "the Lord God" because it doesn't want to submit to anyone other than itself.
- When families submit to the Lord, He will enable them to stand against Satan's attacks.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

FAMILY IS OUR FOUNDATION: When you see a sky scraper being built in the center of a city, they block off the area and the construction workers dig a huge hole. You always know how high they plan to build up by how low they dig down because it all starts with the foundation. You can't build a skyscraper culture on a shallow family foundation.

OBEYING GOD'S DIRECTIONS FOR MARRIAGE AND

FAMILY: Have you ever tried to put a bicycle together? Unless you are an engineering genius, you can't just take all the parts out and start assembling them. If you do, it may take hours or days to put the bike together. But if you read the directions, written by the bicycle maker, you can put that bike together

in no time and your son or daughter can enjoy his or her new toy. Likewise, when we read the directions for marriage and family, written by the marriage and family Maker, we will enjoy a more fulfilling, God-honoring life, and we will display His image to the watching world.

BUILDING OUR FAMILY ON GOD'S WORD: We have all heard the story of the three pigs. Three pigs built three houses to protect themselves from the threat of the big, bad wolf. As we know, the big, bad wolf huffed and puffed and blew the first house down because it was built of straw. And then he huffed and puffed and blew down the second house because it was built of wood. Finally, with all three pigs huddled inside house number three, the big, bad wolf huffed and he puffed and he blew with all his might. But the house stood strong against the assault. Why? Because it was made of brick. Whether your house stands or falls depends on what materials you used to build it. If we build our families based on God's Word and His purpose, our families will stand against the assaults of our culture.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"The breakdown of the family is the single basic reason for the disintegration of society and of culture."

"If we don't solidify the foundation of the family, the nation will forever be doing patchwork."

"You can't build a skyscraper culture on a family foundation that has the stability of a chicken coup."

"The marriage maker, the family maker, knows more about marriage and family than you do."

"When you understand your role in the family and live it for the King and His kingdom...you can experience family as the Creator intended it to be."