

**1 - God’s Original Intent for Family  
Pastor Joe Oakley - April 27, 2025**

We are in a sermon series called Seize the Kingdom of God. Last week we began a mini-series within the series called Kingdom Family. I taught on the biblical principle that church is a family - God’s family. God is our Father - Jesus is our brother - and we are brothers and sisters in Christ. **We are a kingdom family and we need each other!**

Today I am preaching on God’s Original Intent for the Family. Family is such a great idea, only God could have thought of it. That makes family more than a good thing – it’s a God thing!!

Regardless of how much the media may mock it!  
Regardless of how many books may belittle it!  
Regardless of how many marriages end in divorce!  
Regardless of how many families are dysfunctional!  
No matter how many people say it’s outdated, old-school or irrelevant - family is a God-thing and that makes family a good thing.  
**Since God created family, we must view family through God’s kingdom lens.**

**The foundation of society is the family, and the foundation of the family is marriage. That’s why Satan works so hard to destroy marriages. He know that if he destroys marriages he can destroy families and if the family breaks down – everything breaks down.**

But when families are strong – a nation is strong. That’s why we need to build stronger families. Stronger families build stronger churches. Stronger families build stronger schools. Stronger families build stronger nations. That’s why it is so critical that we make strengthening marriages and families a vital part of our church’s mission.

What does God want our families to be like? We find that by looking back at His original intent.

**A kingdom family can be defined as a family that is based on God’s kingdom purposes as revealed in God’s Word.  
Kingdom families seek God’s kingdom first and they partner together under the authority of God to reflect God’s image, to rule with authority in life, and to reproduce physical and spiritual children.**

Families that are based on this shared purpose are families that are built to last. The are not based on fickle feelings but on faith in God’s Word.

Since marriage and family have a divine origin, that means that God designed them and God defined them.

I know the enemy is desperately working to change the world's view of marriage and family and the roles of men and women, husbands and wives. But we must fight to retain a kingdom view of marriage and family. To do that, we must go all the way back to the beginning in Genesis 2:18-24

***The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ...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.***

From these passages, we see that God created marriage and family and everything He created He called good.

**To have a good marriage and family, you must do family God's way.**

The sad fact is that many marriages end in divorce these days. The sadder fact is that many of these divorces could be prevented. I honestly believe that most people want a good marriage; they just don't know how to make it happen. Most of us did not have good role models for family. Let me say, all of us were raised in dysfunctional families. There are no perfect families. But we can learn from the way we were raised how to or how not to make our family work.

If you want to know how something should work – you go to the person who created it. So, in order to learn what makes family work – you go to God since He's the one who created family and He knows how to make it work.

Marriage and family will not work unless we open the owner's manual that God gave us – called the Bible – and do it His way. Psalm 127:1 says:

***Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.***

It's hard to build a strong family apart from God. In fact it's impossible!  
It's hard to build a strong family without God's principles to guide us.  
In fact, it's impossible.

We have an enemy who does everything to try to separate us. That's why for marriage to really work, we need God's miraculous power.

That's why I believe Jesus performed His first miracle at a wedding. The hosts ran out of wine and Jesus turned water into wine. This shows the importance of having Him in our lives. Listen closely - in every marriage and in every family there will come times of crisis – when we run out of wine – when we can't go on in

our own strength - but Jesus can take the mess you have left and turn it into something good.

So, when your family seems like it's falling apart – turn to Jesus! When you're at the end of your rope and you have no hope – turn to Jesus! Let Him turn your water into wine. If you turn to Him, He will turn to you and He will see you through.

To build stronger families we must do it God's way. We need to know God's original intent and purpose for family. Genesis 1:26-28 says:

***God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over all the earth... So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."***

We see God's original intent for families here:

### **1. God's original intent was for families to reflect the image of God**

God created families for people to have a relationship with God and each other that would result in a demonstration of God's glory and God's kingdom to the world. Having a kingdom marriage is not just for us to enjoy - but also it is to be a demonstration of God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness.

Notice that it takes the man and the woman together to reflect the image of God. Now I know we are all being individually conformed to the image of Christ. But there are aspects of the male and aspects of the female that together reflect the image of God.

That's one of the reasons God created marriage between a man and a woman. God did not create families with two fathers and no mother. He did not create families with two mothers and no father.

It takes a male and a female to reflect the image of God. Paul addressed this in 1 Thessalonians 2. In verse 7 he says -

***We were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.***

Then in verses 11 and 12 he says:

***You know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.***

These passages show us the female role of gently nurturing children and the male role of exhorting, comforting and charging children to be all the God wants them to be. Those are both reflections of our Father God who is gentle when we need gentleness and exhorting when we need motivation.

God's original intent for families is for them to reflect the image of God. Because of that, family is God's greatest tool to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ! Also -

## **2. God's original intent was for families to reproduce –**

God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. When Noah and his family got off the boat after the flood, God told them the exact same thing – be fruitful and multiply. Malachi 2:15 addresses this purpose for marriage -

***Has not (the Lord) made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.***

By the way – this is another reason why marriage is between a man and a woman. A man and a man cannot reproduce. A woman and a woman cannot reproduce. Only a man and a woman can reproduce – that's another reason why God created marriage to be a covenant between a man and a woman.

God wants us to be fruitful and multiply – not just by having children – but by having increase and blessing in every area of life. Our goal as married couples is not only to reflect the image of God together but also to transfer that image to our children as we raise kingdom kids. We have an enemy who wants to keep that from happening.

**Satan's plan is to attack God's plan for the family.**

**He wants to keep us under the curse.**

**He wants us to be a bad reflection on God rather than a good reflection.**

**He wants us to not bear any godly children or any other fruit.**

**He also wants us to control each other rather than partner together.**

## **3. God's original intent was for families to rule in life together**

God created a woman from the man's rib to be a help to him. He created her not from his feet, so he would rule over her – not from his head, so she would rule over him, but from his side, the place closest to his heart. To have a kingdom family – we must realize God created us to rule and reign in life together – not to rule over each other.

This purpose and the blessings connected to it can only be achieved if the marriage relationship operates according to its divine design.

This explains why Satan didn't attack Adam until he was married. And when Adam and Eve sinned – that's called the fall of man. After sin entered the world – a curse entered the world. We find this in Genesis 3:14-19. In that passage God cursed the serpent. God cursed the ground and made man's work harder. But listen to what God said to the woman in verse 16:

***I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.***

This passage is very difficult to translate from the original Hebrew and there are differences of opinions among Bible scholars, but many of them believe that this has multiple meanings. Adam Clarke says that while man and woman were formed with equal rights – and the woman had just as much right to rule as the man – but she was cursed with subjection to the will of man.

And in every age of world history – women have been ruled by men. They have been seen as property of men and slaves of men through most of history – and still are in some places. Thankfully, wherever Christianity has gone – women have been set free!

But remember God's original intent was for man and woman to rule together as partners in life. Adam and Eve ruled together until sin entered the picture. After the fall into sin and the resulting curse, then there began a struggle between man and woman to rule over each other. That's how the New Living Translation of Genesis 3:16 reads

***And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.***

And most homes have this fight for control going on to this day! I grew up in a time when the man ruled the roost and the woman's role in life was just to do what the husband told her to do. The husband ruled and the wife submitted. I thought that was a pretty good way of life until I got married and this fight for control started. I can't tell you how many times in the early days of marriage I told my wife – submit! But as I studied the word of God – I realized that God's original intent was for us to rule together as partners in life.

**Jesus died to redeem us – but not back to the curse!  
He did not die to redeem us back to the place of fallenness.  
Jesus died to redeem us back to God's original intent.**

God's intent is not for families to live under the curse where we fight for control – but that we would love each other and be mutually submissive.

Men love to quote Ephesians 5:22 to their wives -

***Wives, submit to your husband as to the Lord.***

And women love to quote Ephesians 5:25 to their husbands -

***Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church.***

But this whole passage on family begins in Ephesians 5:21 by saying:

***Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.***

It starts with mutual submission. Then it goes on to tell wives to submit rather than to contend for control. Then husbands are told to love rather than dominate.

Mutual submission is the foundation of a kingdom family! God wants us to be partners, not enemies. Working together, not against each other. God's original intent is that we would be partners in life. 1 Peter 3:7 says:

***Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.***

The New Living Translation says:

***She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life.***

Kingdom families partner together to rule and reign in life!

Rather than being grace-based – Satan wants us to be rule-based and shame-based. How do we deal with that? The same way that God did with Adam and Eve when they fell into sin. He showed them grace and mercy.

God was not surprised when Adam and Eve sinned! The fall of man did not catch Him off guard. In fact, He had already made provision for it. Revelation 13:8 says that Jesus is ***...the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.***

God always had redemption in mind!

God always had grace and mercy in mind!

God always had forgiveness through the blood of the Lamb in mind!

How do I know that? Genesis 3:21 says:

***The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.***

Where did He get the skins? Here's what I believed happened. God told Adam and Eve they would die the day they sinned. That's why they were hiding from God.

I believe God came to them and said, "I told you that you would die if you disobeyed me. You deserve to die right now. But I want you to know that one day I am sending My Son to die in your place to pay for your sin. But until that day, I'm going to sacrifice an innocent animal on your behalf. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin."

Innocent animals had to die so that the man and woman might be forgiven and be back in fellowship with God and each other. That's a picture of what Jesus did for us on the cross when He died for our sins.

God showed Adam and Eve grace and He's still showing us grace today! Thank God we don't have to kill any animals to atone for our sins! By one sacrifice Jesus Christ has paid for every sin we will ever commit.

And when we place our faith in Jesus, we receive His grace and we are clothed in His righteousness. Galatians 3:26-27 says:

***You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.***

Adam and Eve tried to clothe themselves with their own righteousness. And we tend to try to use cover ups to look righteous - but there is nothing we can do to clothe ourselves. The clothing God requires can only be obtained at the cost of a life. And not just any life – but a perfect sinless life!

God made provision for Adam and Eve's sin by shedding the blood of an innocent animal to make garments to cover them. Aren't you glad that He made provision for us too!

**The blood of Christ covers all our sins!  
The blood of Christ forgives us and saves us!  
Because of the blood of Christ, we have a grace-based covenant with God.  
God's grace not only saves us and forgives us, but it empowers us  
to have kingdom families.**

God established a kingdom on earth that would rule over the kingdom of Satan. God has a purpose for you and me—and for married couples and families —to rule a part of His creation. Every person and every family was created with that divine intent.

Simply put, the mission of marriage is to reflect the image of God, to carry out His divine mandate to rule on earth, and to pass that purpose on to the next generation.

God's original intent is for us to be kingdom families:  
where we rule in life together as partners  
where we reflect the image of God together  
where we reproduce physical children and spiritual children for the glory of God.