



## LET'S DO IT GOD'S WAY "Life in the Family" Exodus 20:12

No. 5523

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To honor father and mother presupposes we know them, appreciate their significance and are afforded opportunities of expressing our respect. This requires, of course, a lasting, intimate relationship in a suitable environment—we call it the family.

### I. The Changing Family.

- A. The family in Biblical times.
  - 1. The Biblical concept of clan and household.
    - a. Joshua 7:16-18      b. Luke 2:4
  - 2. Advantages of this system.
    - a. Economical survival—"that you may live long."
    - b. Emotional stability—"may be well with you."
      - i. Extended family.
      - ii. Roots and identity—e.g. names.
      - iii. Household experience.
    - c. Educational structure.
      - i. Parent/child dialogue. Exodus 12:26; 13:14
      - ii. Family conversions. John 4:53; Acts 10:33-34
- B. The family in modern times.
  - 1. The changes.
    - a. From extended to nuclear.      b. From hierarchy to individuality.
    - c. From stability to mobility.      d. From traditional to novelty.
  - 2. The causes.
    - a. Urbanization—move from family farm.
    - b. Industrialization—move from family to factory.
    - c. Communication—move from familial to media.
  - 3. The consequences.
    - a. Better housing, health, education.
    - b. Deteriorating relationships.
    - c. Emotional disorders.
    - d. Confusion concerning values.
    - e. Marital and family fragmentation.
- C. The family of the future.
  - 1. Pessimistic view: "The family is near the point of complete extinction."
  - 2. Optimistic view: "turbulence of tomorrow will drive people deeper."
  - 3. Mediating view: "The family will break up, shatter, come together again in weird and novel ways." "Future shock."

### II. The Unchanging Factors.

- A. The family's divine origin.
  - 1. Adam, Noah, Abram, Israel.      2. See Ephesians 3:15
- B. The family's divine order.
  - 1. Father and mother honored.
    - a. Lit. "To state one is deserving of respect, attention and obedience." Isaiah 29:13
    - b. Father's part in protection, direction and provision.
    - c. Mother's part in bringing to birth, care, nurture.
  - 2. Father and mother to be honorable.
    - a. A sense of divine calling and privilege.
    - b. A sense of divine accountability and responsibility. N.B. Grimm's Fairy Tale.
- C. The family's divine opportunity.
  - 1. To start off doing it His way. N.B. Matthew 10:32-39
  - 2. To seek a new start where necessary.
  - 3. To assist those for whom neither is possible.