

## The Purpose of a Family (Part 1)

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God's mind is always revolving about the family.

United States of America is one of the most advanced countries today. However it also has the same advancement in families' break-ups. For the past two years, there is a 500% increase in juvenile violent crimes. All these crimes are because of broken families. Problem is because juvenile thinks that family live is no longer important.

Juvenile often has three thoughts ...

1. **Individualism** – Always about “*Me, myself and I*”.
2. **Choice** – “*I have my rights! Can't I choose?*”
3. **Personal Liberty** – “*I am free! Why should I be?*”

The above three points will lead one to stubbornness and selfishness. It all starts from just one member of the family and it will destroy the family.

Let's see what God sees about the family ...

**(Genesis 2:18)** And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

**(Genesis 2:24)** Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Notice something ... At the start of the Bible ... God immediately set off with family. He said it is good to start a family. When God made Adam, God put him in a perfect condition, the Garden of Eden. Yet in the same garden, God still made him a wife.

Your original design by God was for relationship. You are made for **relationship, friendship, companionship**.

**God has 4 Purposes for a Family (2 purposes for Part 1)**

### 1. The family is a shelter from storms.

Some people treat home as hotel. Home is not a hotel!

You will all go through bad times. There will be days that things just do not seem work out right. Those are the bad times that you will need to find **peace, protection, refuge**. That will be your **home**.

**(Proverbs 14:26)** In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

There can be **physical storm, emotional storm, relationship storm, financial storm.** To summaries them ...

### **3 kinds of storms:**

- 1. Storm of Change** – You are living in a time of rapid change. You need a place of stability. A place you can count on, your home.
- 2. Storm of Failure** – You will not win all the time. No one will. Because no one is perfect and all will make mistakes. You will surely fail a test at some point. Failure however will be much easier if you have someone to run to.
- 3. Storm of Rejection** – This storm is the toughest one to handle because it is tough to be critics and attack. The most damaging attack especially when you are still a child in your parents' mind.

**(Ecclesiastes 4:12)** A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Two can handle what one cannot handle. And when you are with your family, you will be sheltered by your family members.

### **4 Things on How to Turn your Home into a Shelter**

#### **1. Hear**

You need a listening ear and be the listening ear when your family needs you.

#### **2. Hug**

Give physical affection to your family.

#### **3. Help**

Be ready to help another family member when he/she is in trouble.

#### **4. Hope**

Do you know you can turn the situation around just by hope? Because with hope you build each other up rather than tear each other a part. You live them up instead of bringing them down.

Those 4 points will help someone even if the person is not your family. Hear, hug, help and hope will bring the person up. That will be how you can change someone's life.

## **2. The family is a place to play.**

The family should be a habitat of happiness, format for happiness, a place of fun. Because ...

**(Ecclesiastes 9:9)** Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun— all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.

**(Proverbs 5:18)** Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth.

Your home should not be like a camp where it is a learning centre to the extent that it becomes a regimental boot-camp. It should be a place of fun.

Why should a father be a fun father?

**(Psalms 127:3)** Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.

**(Psalms 127:4)** Children born to a young man are like sharp arrows in a warrior's hands.

**(Psalms 127:5)** How happy is the man whose quiver is full of them! He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.

Healthy families will make fun. Parents should teach your children how to make fun. Model what is fun for them without having to buy expensive gifts all the time.

If you do not have fun at home, do not be surprised that your children will start leaving home. Because home was no more the enjoyable place it was supposed to be.

### **Conclusion ...**

The truth is you will only have your kids for a season. They will not be around forever. So make the time count. Make your home a place to play.

*Are you enjoying your kids or just enduring them?*

*Are you partying with them or are you putting up with them?*

Celebrate (with) your family. Plan something interesting for them. Do something off-the-wall and enjoy it with the family.

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Sermon taken from <http://www.bryanchung.sg>

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