

The Family, Part 02

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered 7/12/2020

Introduction Summary

In this second part of The Family Series, we will look at the staggering statistics of the African American family. It is a problem. But we have the answer to the problem in the Holy Bible. Will discuss the biblical role of the man and how it has a direct effect on the family. When the man doesn't fulfill his God-ordained role, it tragically affects women and children.

As you study, realize if you have been on the wrong side of God's will, you can repent, and God will receive you. The purpose of this lesson is to help us get on track so that we, as Christians, can be lights shining in a dark place. We can change so that we can enjoy the abundant life provided for us in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- I. God's will is for the male and female to come together and multiply (Gen. 1:27-28; Gen. 2:20-25). Anything outside of that is not normal, but it can be fixed by the power of God.
- II. Only a third of African American households have a father and mother.
- III. Black Lives Matter's purpose is to destroy the family, as stated on their website.
- IV. All Scripture is inspired by God. It is helpful to the believer, because God loves you (2 Tim. 3:16).
- V. This is statistical data involving millions of people throughout decades.
 - A. In the 1960s, nearly 95% of babies were born to married couples in the USA.
 1. Today, 40% are born to single women.
 2. It has been found that marriage is good for children.
 3. Children born to married parents enjoy a number of socioeconomic benefits over children born to single parents.
 - B. A solid intact family structure can have a significant impact on the child's wellbeing.
 1. It offers benefits for the adults and the children.
 2. The children are less likely to experience a wide range of problems.
 3. They have access to more economic and community resources, because parents are able to pool their time, money and energy.
 4. An intact family structure has a consistently positive influence on earnings for prime age males, and is one of the most important factors for females and children in determining areas of dependence on welfare programs that target poverty.
 5. They have a direct influence on reducing out-of-wedlock births, increasing the high school and college graduation rates, and higher employment rates.

6. These children are more often involved in community activities, take part more so in academic pursuits and other academic institutions that lead them to college and eventually to a career.
7. It increases high school and graduation and has high employment rates.
8. The families tend to be more stable. The parents tend to be more involved in their children's lives. They're more vested in their children's success. It's not that they love their children more; but they are more able.
9. Fathers spend, on average, more time with their children.
10. The children are 20-30% more physically healthy.
11. An intact family structure relates to pre-school cognitive development skills.
12. They had higher scores on verbal reasoning.
13. The children are more likely to graduate from high school and complete college.
14. Adolescents were less likely to exhibit problem behavior, compared to single mothers living at home or with cohabitating partners,

C. Divorce has a negative effect on children. Following divorce:

1. Children are 50% more likely to develop health problems.
2. Children do best in a well stable environment with well-adjusted parents that establish consistent routines for the home.
3. An environment of turmoil with continued conflict, multiple and parental employment changes link to a low level of child wellbeing.
4. Being raised in an intact family reduces the probability of living in poverty by 82%.
5. According to 2009 US Census, the poverty rate with children was 37.1%.
6. The poverty rate of married couples with children was 6.8%.
7. Marriage is one of the greatest weapons against child poverty.

D. The CDC states, 4 out of 10 children are born to unwed mothers, in the general population.

1. Among African Americans, close to 80% of children are born to unwed mothers.
2. One in four children under 18 are being raised without a father. And nearly half live below the poverty line.
3. The median income for families led by a single mother in 2013 was \$26,000. That's 1/3 the median for a married couple.
4. Nearly half of single mother families have an income of less than \$25,000.
5. Single mothers spend over half their income on housing and childcare, on average.
6. Without financial aid, single mothers' students have little or no means to contribute financially to their educational expenses.
7. Single fathers tend to have higher incomes and are far less likely to live at or below the poverty line than single mothers.

8. Single fathers who had children outside of marriage are more likely to become poor by 70-90% compared to men who never had children before marriage.
9. **God's nuclear family system is the best, especially for women and children.**
10. Teens in a married family have six times lower risk of teen pregnancy.
11. Within three years of a child's birth, 40% of cohabitating couples break up.
12. 77% of African American children are born out of wedlock. The result is that the kids are poorer, sicker, higher risk of violence, have poor schooling, and too many are on a track to the school to prison pipeline.
13. African Americans have a higher divorce rate.
14. Only a third of African Americans, today, are born to two-parent homes.
15. **32% of African American fathers never visit their children.**

- VI. A single woman cares for the things of God and must keep her body holy (1 Cor. 7:34).
 - A. She should be aware that guys will "hit it and quit it," leaving her with the responsibility.
 - B. That produces emotional, physical, and financial problems for the woman and the child.
- VII. Children need their father in the home.
 - A. Boys are, by nature, more aggressive; they need their father in the home.
 - B. There are exceptions to every rule. Exceptional women have successfully raised boys.
 - C. Women learn what a good man is from being raised by a good father.
- VIII. The man's focus should be on finding out God's will (1 Cor. 7:32,33-35).
 - A. He should keep his body holy until marriage.
 - B. He should care for the things of God, his mission in life. Then, find the wife.
 1. Tell the potential wife his mission.
 2. She decides whether she wants to get under that mission.
 3. I told my wife my mission when I asked her to marry me.
 4. My wife decided that was a mission she would like to get under.
- IX. The man should prepare himself spirit, soul, body and financially.
 - A. Spiritually: The most spiritual person in the household is supposed to be the man.
 1. Find someone like you; not necessarily your age or race, but your love for God (1 Cor. 6:14-18).
 2. Meditate the Word to change your thinking (Rom. 12:1-2; Josh. 1:8).
 - B. Emotionally: Be emotionally fit.
 1. Emotional eating leads to bad health. Bad health leads to disease.
 2. Face the underlying cause and let God help you fix it (Php. 3:13; Mat. 6:34).
 3. COVID19 affects African Americans because of what we do.
 4. If it's racism, then it's blacks against blacks.

- C. Physically: Be physically fit to the best of your ability.
 - 1. Be the best you can be, physically.
 - 2. Be what you want your future spouse to be.
- D. Financially: The #1 priority for women is security.
 - 1. Lack of financial security affects the woman's desire to want to be with you.
 - 2. Both parties should bring something to the table.
 - 3. The issues of sex and money will kill your marriage. Discipline yourself.
 - 4. Satan should not be able to wipe you out in one fell swoop.
- X. Not everybody should be looking to get married.
 - A. Some may not be ready or God may have called them to do something else.
 - B. Single people should be happy as they are.
 - C. Be content with what you have (Luk. 3:14; Phl. 4:11; 1 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 13:5).
 - D. The biggest failure in the body of Christ is not understanding assignment (1 Pet. 5:6-7)
 - E. Do God's will; Following God is where you get your miracle, meet your spouse, etc.
 - F. Being in God's will keeps you from missing the mark.
 - G. If you've missed the mark, get back on track through repentance (1 John 1:9).
 - H. You and your family can still be blessed as you humble yourself before God.
 - I. All things are possible (Psalm 118:6; Mark 9:23)!

Closing Summary

This is a very important series concerning the family, in particular the African American family. The major point is that God has given us His Word to help us where we need it. Thank God that He sent Jesus to pay the penalty of our sin and provide for us a way out of darkness. We can go to Him, repent and receive His divine forgiveness and guidance to move forward. We hope you take these things to heart as you draw closer to God. The closer you draw to Him, the closer He draws to you. That is when you and your family can walk in God's best. Take Jesus' words in Mark 9:23 for yourself: **If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes!**