

THE FAMILY PHILOSOPHY

It was the intention of God to bless the world through the family (familee)

Gen. 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God made humanity in His image (resemblance) that is as a representative figure, in the earth. God wanted the male and the female (man and woman, husband and wife, brother and sister, aunt and uncle, grandfather and grandmother, etc.) to operate in unity together in order to accomplish ruling the earth. The man was not made to rule or dominate the woman, and the woman was not made to rule or dominate the man. The intention of God was for male and female to operate as a team in the earth together.

A team only functions well when the members of the team are each committed to the cause of the team, understand their place on the team, and are willing to function in those places. In other words, when each member understands and agrees to their role, the team can accomplish its best. If the members of the team are not willing to give themselves to the larger picture of the whole, the team suffers tremendously – no matter how talented they are.

The man was first made and was given the responsibility to tend and keep the garden. It was the decision of God to make man the head and to give man the chief place of leadership responsibility. Tend means, work, serve, till, and worship. According to Genesis, it is essential that man understand how to work, serve, till (dig, cultivate, patiently labor) and worship before his gets involved in marriage and tries to establish a family! Keep means to hedge about, guard, to protect, and attend to.

According to Genesis God gave the place of shielding, guarding, protecting, and being attentive to the man. A man who won't work, won't serve, isn't faithful to stay with something until it is finished, and doesn't worship God, or any combination of these, is a head out of order. And every woman who connects with this head will be frustrated, because there is no way for the rest of the body to operate in order – when the head is out of order. Also, if a he does not attend to the needs of his assignment, and has no regard for protecting, guarding or shielding that which is in his care he is testifying to the fact that he is not ready for God's greatest phenomenon of creation – the woman.

The woman was second made, and was given the responsibility to assist. Her direct assignment is found in 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." Eve/woman, was created to be a complement for man/Adam. Complement, meaning that which completes or brings to perfection; the amount needed to fill or complete; entirety. In other words, Adam/man and Eve/woman were a complete set – two parts that completed each other so that God's purpose could be fulfilled through them as they joined together. They could not fulfill the purpose of God "to be fruitful and multiply" without one another. One supplied what was lacking in the other.

The work of the woman is to complement the man. Her distinct position is to come along side and supply insight, support, encouragement, and strength to his endeavors. She is gifted as a carrier of vision and releaser of passion. The woman's role is like that of the Holy Spirit's – He is also called the "helper." It is a significant role. She is not to badger, belittle, demean, or demoralize. She is to build up, add to, and stand with.

It is after God brings the male and female together that they are given the innate ability to reproduce. Remember, God designed humanity to represent Him in the earth. In order to do this, it was essential that they remain in obedient relationship with Him. So God's desire was that this family He had blessed and told to increase and multiply, bring forth offspring like themselves. In other words, God wanted to fill the earth with people who lived in right relationship with Him, and one another.

The first family – Adam and Eve (prior to disobedience) form the foundation for our FAMILIEE. As they each walked in the purpose of God and fulfilled their design by complementing one another, they lived unashamed. They were fulfilled in themselves, with one another, and there was no separation between them and God. His presence was continuously available without delay. And they had no reason to live with disappointment.

The first family develops our philosophy/model for the final FAMILIEE. Just as it was the desire of God for Adam and Eve to represent Him in the earth, it is still His desire for believers to do so today. Just as Adam and Eve could not accomplish fulfilling the call of God on their own, we cannot accomplish this task on our own. God wanted to bless the world through the family and He still does. The first plan was to do it biologically, now He is doing it spiritually.

"We are a FAMILIEE"