

The Influence of Family



Introduction

- The Bible has much to say about families
 - Relationships (spouse, parent/child, siblings)
 - Positive and negative examples
 - Physical and spiritual
- Tend to share some common traits
 - Roles & responsibilities
 - A psychological pull or influence on the members
- What can we learn from these influences, especially to be better families?



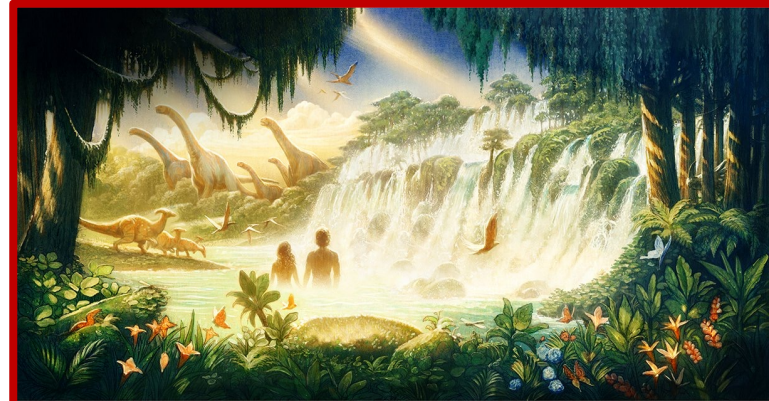
Origin

□ In Heaven

- “Sons of God” Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:4-7
 - 4 *“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ...*
5 *Who determined its measurements? ...* 6 *To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

□ On Earth

- Adam & Eve Gen. 1:26-28; 2:21-24
 - 23 *And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”* 24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*
(cling, adhere, abide fast)



Spouses

▣ Roles/responsibilities

- For the husband: Eph 5:25, 28, 33; Col 3:19; 1 Pet 3:7
 - ▣ “Agape” love, cherish, give honor
- For the wife: Prov. 31:10-25; Eph 5:22, 24; Col 3:18; 1 Tim 3:11; 1 Pet 3:1
 - ▣ Respect, submit, industrious
 - ▣ Influence
 - *1 Wives, likewise, [be] submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 1Pet. 3:1*
- For both: 1Cor. 7:1-5; Titus 2:1-8
 - ▣ Kindness, affectionate, sexual union,



Spouses

□ Examples

- (+) 1 Sam. 1 Elkanah and Hannah (Samuel's parents)
 - *5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.*
- (+) 1 Sam. 25 Abigail and Nabal
- (-) 1 Kings 11 Solomon and foreign wives
 - *4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; ...*
- (-) 1 Kings 21 Jezebel and Ahab
 - *25 But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.*
- (-) Mark 6 Herod & Herodias
- (-) Acts 5 Ananias & Sapphira
- (+) Rom. 16 Aquila & Priscilla
 - *3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,* ⁴

Spouses

□ Influences

- (+) Mutual encouragement, support, love, etc.
 - Physical, financial, emotional, spiritual
- (-) Conflict/discouragement
 - *Prov. 27:15 A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike;*
- (-) Enticement to do evil

□ Be careful whom you marry, help each other, beware of evil influences

- *Prov. 6:23*
 - *For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; ... 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. 25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids.*



In-Laws

□ (+) Ruth and Naomi

- Ruth 1:16 *But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; ... Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.*

□ (-) Spiritual division

- Luke 12:51 *“Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. ... 53 mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”*



Parent/Child

□ Roles/responsibilities

- Instruct/discipline
 - Eph. 6:4 “...bring the up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”
 - Heb. 12:7-9 “chasten...correct”
- Obey as children
 - Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20
- Help out around the house
 - Matt. 21:28-31 “go work today in my vineyard”



□ Grandparents by extension



Parent/Child

□ Examples

- (-) Gen. 37 Jacob with Joseph
- (+) Ex. 2 Jochebed with Moses Heb. 11:24
- (+) 1 Sam. 1 Hannah with Samuel
- (+) 2 Tim. 1:5 Lois and Eunice with Timothy

□ Influences

- (+) Encouragement, support, love, spiritual instruction
- (+-) Proverbs 10:1 *A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.*
- (-) Tug of loyalty
 - Matt. 10:37 *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”*



Parent/Child

□ Influences

- (-) Persecution

- Matt. 10:21 “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.” ... 35 For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother,



Siblings

▣ Roles/responsibilities

- Be nice to brothers/sisters

▣ Examples

- (-+) Gen. 4 Cain and Abel
- (-) Gen. 25 Jacob and Esau
- (-) Gen. 37 Joseph and his brothers
- (-) Num. 12 Moses and Aaron/Miriam
- (-) 2 Sam. 13 Absalom and Amnon over Tamar
- (-) Mar. 3:21 Jesus' family
“He is out of his mind.” (ESV)



Siblings

□ Influences

- (+) Encouragement, etc.
- (-) Jealousy, fighting, getting even
- (-) Enticement to do evil
- (-) Persecution
 - Matt. 10:21 “*Now brother will deliver up brother to death,*”



Spiritual Parent/Child

□ Father and children

- 2 Sam. 7:14; 2 Cor. 6:18 *“I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”*
- Matt. 5:48 *“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”*
- John 1:12 *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”*
- Gal. 3:26 *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”*
- Eph. 2:19b *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but ... members of the household of God,”*



Roles & Responsibilities

□ Instruct/discipline

- 2 Tim. 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- Heb. 12:7-9 God “*chastens...corrects*”

□ Obey as children

- Matt. 5:48 “*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*”
- 1 Pet. 1:14-15 “*as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, ...but as He... is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct*”

Roles & Responsibilities

□ Help out around the house

- Rom. 12:4-8 *“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ... if ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”*



Spiritual Siblings

□ Brothers and sisters

- Mark 10:29-30 “... Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother... But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers...”
- 1 Tim. 5:1-2 “Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters,”

□ Jesus as oldest brother

- Rom. 8:29 “...the firstborn among many brothers.”
- Heb. 2:11 “...he is not ashamed to call them brethren”



Roles & Responsibilities

□ Be nice to brothers/sisters

- Rom. 12:10 “*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.*”
- 1 Thess. 4:9-10 “*But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ... But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more*”
- 1 John 4:20 “*If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*”

Roles & Responsibilities

□ Help/watch out for one another

- Via the preachers, elders, class teachers, more mature
 - Eph. 4:11 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*
 - Gal. 6:1 *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness...*
- Older/younger women Titus 2:4
- All
 - Heb.10:24 *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,*
 - Col. 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*
 - James 5:16 *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.*

Examples

□ Early NT churches

- (+) Acts 4 Barnabas' benevolence
- (+) Acts 6 Widows in the early church and daily distribution
- (+) Acts 8 Peter rebuking Simon the sorcerer
- (+) Acts 11 Barnabas and Saul/Paul (teaching & benevolence)
- (-) 1 Tim. 1 Hymenaeus and Alexander
- (-) 2 Tim. 4 Demas
- (-) 3 John 1 Diotrephes

Influences

- (+) Encouragement, joy, strength, etc.
- (-) Selfishness
 - Matt. 7:12 *“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you”*
 - Phil. 2:3 *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”*
- (-) Favoritism, inconsistent discipline
 - 1 Tim. 5:21 *“I charge thee...observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.”*

Influences

□ (-) Disagreements, squabbles, division

- John 17:20-21 *“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us...”*
- 1 Cor. 1:10 *“Now I plead with you, brethren,...that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*
- 1 Cor. 6:5 *“Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?”*

□ (-) Enticement to do evil



Conclusion

- ❑ Many parallels with relationships, roles, and responsibilities between physical and spiritual families
- ❑ Both exert strong influences
 - Positive and negative
- ❑ Local congregation a solid family when functioning as God would have it - but it takes dedication, time, and effort



Conclusion

- Born/adopted into a physical family - same with God's spiritual family
 - Eph. 1:5 "...adoption as sons"
 - 1 Pet. 1:23 "born ... thru the word of God"
 - John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name"
 - John 3:5 "...born of water..."
 - Rom. 6:3 "...baptized into Christ Jesus"

