

“Doing Family God’s Way...”

A family is defined as a group of people affiliated by a common ancestry. In thirty nine years of teaching seventh grade social studies my students and I studied many types of families. We, in the Western world, commonly refer to our family type as a nuclear family. You know, mom, dad and the kids. Throughout the world there are family types referred to as extended, matriarchal, and patriarchal. Boys in my seventh grade classroom never really liked the idea of a matriarchal family which can be found in certain parts of the world. Boys in my class never realized that a matriarchal family could be as close as the family next door where there was no male around. Families normally bring to mind reunions, good food, and games outside. As we were raising our daughter family vacations became very special for us. At about age three we started taking family vacations and enjoyed different places and experiences. I really believe that it is possible to take people from different cultures of this world and speak to them about family and share the cultural enjoyment of reunions, good food, games, and vacations.

But what about doing family the world’s way? If you are very fortunate that will be a nuclear family. Even as a nuclear family you have all of those aunts and uncles and in-laws and ~~outlaws~~ various groups of people that support you. That is your extended family and we all know how great that can be. For most of us within our nuclear family the moms and dads share equal as well as different responsibilities. So this type of family of the world works well most of the time. Unfortunately, this nuclear family of the world is being weakened. Unfortunately, the new world family is not so new at all. Read Genesis chapters 18-19. You know the story. The Lord told Abraham that “the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous” Abraham pleaded for his nephew Lot and his family that lived in Sodom. Please reread the story. One particular thought as to why these cities were destroyed is described in Leviticus 18:22 “Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.” Sodom and Gomorrah and three other cities were destroyed. They are no more.

But what about doing family God’s way? Throughout the Bible the word family or families is found in 15 books. (King James version) In those 15 books the word is used about 145 times. It was most important for God to speak about family. For the population of this world to be that which it is today, doing family God’s way was meant to be and is meant to be one man, one woman. Most recently the runner-up at the Miss USA beauty pageant, Carrie Prejean, was asked a question about marriage. Her response was “a marriage should be between a man and a woman.” Some believe that is why she was runner up. She took a bold stand and spoke of family, doing family God’s way. Of course she had a choice in her response. We all have choices and we all know that there are consequences attached to our choices. “Our Father who art in heaven...” implies that a family relationship exists with God. This is most worthy of nurturing by making positive choices regarding family that God commands and respects. My compliments to Miss Prejean. She took her position on this question and let the world know what doing family God’s way was all about. God demands nothing less.

Richard Hurt, Retired Classroom Teacher

