

A CHRISTIAN'S CORE VALUES #3 THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

Gen. 5 This is the written account of Adam's line.

When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man."

³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

⁶ When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. ⁷

⁹ When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan.

¹² When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel.

¹⁵ When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared.

¹⁸ When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.

²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. ²⁹ He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed

³² After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth. NIV

What is the "big deal" about all these names being in the Bible?

Family is important to God.

God's design for family meets all the basic elements that a person needs. When the design for family is changed we do not get the full benefit of God's desire for us. God's design is a man, a women, and children to compose the family unit. **Why is family so important and what are the consequences of violating the family unit?**

I. Family is important because that is where we obtain our IDENTITY.

A. It answers the question, “Who am I?”

We are defined by our relationship to family.

Mother, father, son/daughter, grandparent, aunt/uncle etc.

B. From family we receive...

- a Tradition- family customs
- a Reputation- family name
- an Eternal Genealogy- family record
- Training- how to be father/mother etc.
- Blessing or Cursing

II. Family is important because it provides PROTECTION and SECURITY.

A. Monogamy a great key to a child’s stability.

Having both the mother and father at home are invaluable to a child. Either parent is irreplaceable.

The violation of God’s design for family has great pain connected to it. Divorce has devastating consequences on children.

When a Father is not present in the home it is shocking concerning the effect it has on children.

It's Official: The Experiment Has Failed

For the best part of thirty years we have been conducting a vast experiment with the family, and now the results are in: the decline of the two-parent, married-couple family has resulted in poverty, ill-health, educational failure, unhappiness, anti-social behaviour, isolation and social exclusion for thousands of women, men and children.

From **Experiments in Living: The Fatherless Family**

By Rebecca O'Neill; Sept. 2002, CIVITAS

1. A child's peace is taken from them.

- 63% of **youth suicides** are from fatherless homes.

[U. S. D.H.H.S. Bureau of the Census]

- 90% of all **homeless and runaway children** are from fatherless homes.

2. A child's emotional stability is affected.

- 85% of all children that exhibit **behavioral disorders** come from fatherless homes.

[Center for Disease Control]

- 80% of rapists motivated with **displaced anger** come from fatherless homes.

[*Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol. 14 p. 403-26]

- 71% of all **high school dropouts** come from fatherless homes.

[National Principals Association *Report on the State of High Schools*]

- 70% of **juveniles in state operated institutions** come from fatherless homes

[U.S. Dept. of Justice, Special Report, Sept., 1988]

- 85% of all youths sitting **in prisons** grew up in a fatherless home.

[Fulton County Georgia Jail Populations and Texas Dept. of Corrections, 1992]

What does this mean? Children from fatherless homes are:

- 4.6 times more likely to commit **suicide**,
- 6.6 times to become **teenaged mothers**
- 24.3 times more likely to **run away**,
- 15.3 times more likely to have **behavioral disorders**,
- 6.3 times more likely to be in a **state-operated institution**,
- 10.8 times more likely to **commit rape**,
- 6.6 times more likely to **drop out of school**,

- 15.3 times more likely to end up in prison while a teenager.

Compared to children who are in the care of two biological, married parents — children who are in the care of single mothers are:

- 33 times more likely to be seriously abused (so that they will require medical attention), and
- 73 times more likely to be killed.

[["Marriage: The Safest Place for Women and Children"](#), by Patrick F. Fagan and Kirk A. Johnson, Ph.D. Backgrounder #1535.]

*** Fall out from couples living together without marriage.**

American Bruce Ellis, is a psychology professor at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand states in his book, *Just living together: Implications of cohabitation for children, families, and social policy*) with the statement that the inherent instability of cohabiting unions--an average duration of about two years--means any children will be ***three times as likely to live with a biologically unrelated parent*** which could result in ***earlier onset of puberty***. In girls, ***this is associated with negative health*** and psychosocial outcomes: ***greater risk of breast cancer in later life, unhealthy weight gain, higher rates of teenage pregnancy, low birth weight babies, emotional problems such as depression and anxiety, and problem behaviors such as alcohol consumption and sexual promiscuity***

B. Economic security is greatly affected.

The absence of a father due to divorce penalizes the children of financial provision.

- 79.6% of custodial mothers receive a support award
- 29.9% of custodial fathers receive a support award.
- 46.9% of non-custodial mothers totally default on support.
- 26.9% of non-custodial fathers totally default on support.
- 20.0% of non-custodial mothers pay support at some level
- 61.0% of non-custodial fathers pay support at some level

- 66.2% of single custodial mothers work less than full time.
- 10.2% of single custodial fathers work less than full time.
- 7.0% of single custodial mothers work more than 44 hours weekly.
- 24.5% of single custodial fathers work more than 44 hours weekly.
- 46.2% of single custodial mothers receive public assistance.
- 20.8% of single custodial fathers receive public assistance.

[*Technical Analysis Paper No. 42* - U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services - Office of Income Security Policy]

- 40% of mothers reported that they had interfered with the fathers visitation to punish their ex-spouse.

[*"Frequency of Visitation"* by Sanford Braver, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*]

- 50% of mothers see no value in the fathers continued contact with his children.

[*"Surviving the Breakup"* by Joan Berlin Kelly]

- 90.2% of fathers with joint custody pay the support due.
- 79.1% of fathers with visitation privileges pay the support due.
- 44.5% of fathers with no visitation pay the support due.
- 37.9% of fathers are denied any visitation.
- 66% of all support not paid by non-custodial fathers is due to the inability to pay.

[1988 Census *"Child Support and Alimony: 1989 Series"* P-60, No. 173 p.6-7, and *"U.S. General Accounting Office Report"* GAO/HRD-92-39FS January 1992]

III. The importance of family “TOGETHERNESS”.

- A. Unconditional **acceptance**- we do not deny our own flesh.
We do not disown those who

fail.

B. Unconditional **love**- it's given without any "ifs" connected to it.

C. **Perseverance**- family encourages one another.

Family stands together in a crisis.

Family shares provisions.

III. Money, clothes, shoes, cars etc.

D. **Preservation**-

1. Keeps the family legacy- inheritance

2. history- memoirs

3. heritage- custom or birthright

Make a difference in future of America and family by doing everything within your power to keep the family together.