

The Kingdom Effect:

How Christ & the Kingdom Changes Everything

The Kingdom Effect...

1. On the Individual
2. On Human Sexuality
3. On Marriage
4. On the Family
5. On the Church, pt I
6. On the Church, pt II
7. On Society & Culture
8. On Worldly Powers
9. On the Future
of Heaven & Earth

Marriage as One Flesh Union

- Genesis 2:18-24; Song of Songs; Matthew 19:1-11; Ephesians 5:25-31

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Jesus, Matthew 19:4-6 NIV

Marriage as Covenant

- The Triune-*Agape* Nature of God
“God *is* love.” (1 Jn 4:8,16)
- **Vows** are made to love and care for the other unconditionally and indefinitely.
- **Sex** physically consummates the “bonding” and binding agreement between male and female.
- **Blessing** comes through the union to the couple, the family (offspring), and the world.

A Comprehensive Union

1. Unites two people in mind and body;
2. Unites with respect to procreation, family life, and broad domestic sharing;
3. Unites permanently and exclusively.

“Bodily coordination is possible even when its end is not realized; so for a couple, bodily union occurs in sex even when conception does not. It is the coordination toward a single end that makes the union; achieving the end would deepen the union but is not necessary for it.”

Sherif Girgis, *What is Marriage?* (2012)

Family in the Old Testament

- Be fruitful and multiply (Gen 1:22,28; 9:7; 35:11)
- In the ANE, many children were a sign of “blessing” and a barren woman had little value
- However, God cares for barren women and extends grace (e.g. Elkanah loves Hannah)
- Children are to be instructed in the Torah—to obey the LORD's “commands” and told of the story of God's salvation (Deut 11:18-21)
- The family is a microcosm of the holy nation, testifying to God's salvific activity in creation

Family in the New Covenant

- There is no command to “be fruitful and multiply” offspring by Christ or the apostles
- Yet Jesus had family, called disciples with families, and he blessed the little children
- The *new covenant* emphasizes the “fruit of the Spirit” in our lives—Christ commands us to “go and make disciples” (spiritual babies)
- Therefore, families become a microcosm of the Kingdom revealed in Jesus and the NT

Instructions for Christian Families

Ephesians 5:21 – 6:1-4

- Mutual submission of husbands & wives
- Husbands *lead* as Christ is head of church
- Husbands *love* wives as Christ loves church
- Wives should *respect* husbands
- Sex deepens the marital bond (1Cor 7:3)
- Children should obey & honor parents
- Fathers shouldn't provoke kids to anger

“Even if your biological family were ideal, it still could not fulfill all of your needs. God never intended our spouse, children, or parents to meet all of our social needs. To expect that is an impossible standard, and approaches idolatry. We need to broaden our understanding of 'family'.”

Daniel Doriani, *Covenant Theological Seminary*

Jesus Redefines Family

Matthew 12:46-50 NIV

46 While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. **47** Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

48 He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” **49** Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. **50** For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

The Supremacy of Christ

Jesus, Matthew 10:32-40 NLT

32 “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. **33** But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

34 “Don’t imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.

35 ‘I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

36 Your enemies will be right in your own household!’

Jesus, Matt 10:32-40, cont.

37 “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine.

38 If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. **39** If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it. **40** “Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me.

The Great Exchange

Mark 10:28-31 NIV

28 Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” **29** “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel **30** will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. **31** But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

“The vision of Jesus for the church is that those who have left family and possessions to follow Jesus will receive things back even in the present age—a new and ever-enlarging family of their fellow-disciples, with homes open to them wherever they go.”

N.T. Wright, *Mark for Everyone*

Paul, Ephesians 2:19-22 NLT

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. **20** Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. **22** Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

“To be a disciple of Jesus is to be made part of a new community in which the family is reconstituted. We are all children, but now a community has been established in which we are all called to be parents, brothers, and sisters to and for one another. In such a community it is impossible for an 'unwanted child' to be born.”

Stanley Hauerwas, *Brazos Theological Commentary on Matthew*

The Kingdom Effect on Family

- Marriage and family is a microcosm of the church and of God's love for the world.
- Our biological families are absorbed and incorporated into God's spiritual family.
- Christian families exist to serve the mission and purpose of the church—God's “eternal purpose” for bringing healing and reconciliation to earth.
- Every Christian has a new extended family where all are brothers and sisters in Christ.

