

Family – God’s Creation

The family is extremely **important** in the Bible.

The family was introduced in the very beginning.

NKJV **Genesis 1:28** "God **blessed** them and said to them, 'Be **fruitful** and **increase** in number; ...

NLT **Genesis 2:24** *This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.*

I
God's plan for Creation was for men and women to marry and have children.

A man and a woman would form a "**one-flesh**" union through marriage.

And they, with their children became a **family**, the essential **building** block of human society.

II
God’s plan was that family members **look after** and care for one another.

NKJV **Genesis 4:1-9** "When God asks Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" Cain's response is the flippant "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Cain was expected to be Abel's keeper and vice versa. Not only was Cain's murder of his brother an offense against humanity in general, but it was the first recorded case of fratricide (murder of one's sibling).

Philippians 2:3-4 clearly expresses the attitude we are to have toward others:

"In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

This *outgoing concern* toward other people is the result of a life driven by love.

NKLV **Mark 12:30-31** *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ^{1a}This is the first commandment. ³¹And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

III
The *theological* concept of family.

NKJV **Matthew 12:46-50** ... "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" ⁴⁶And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

Jesus is not saying that biological family isn't important; He is not dismissing His mother and brothers. What He is doing is making the clear theological point that in the Kingdom of Heaven, the *most important family connection is spiritual, not physical.*

IV
God’s plan for the **Family** was and still is, that the individual members be **saved**.

In the Kingdom of Heaven, the most important family connection is spiritual, not physical.

NKJV **John 1:12-13** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the ^{1a}right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

When we are adopted into God's spiritual family, the Church, God becomes our Father and Jesus, our Brother.

NKJV **Romans 8:15** *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba,^{1a} Father."*