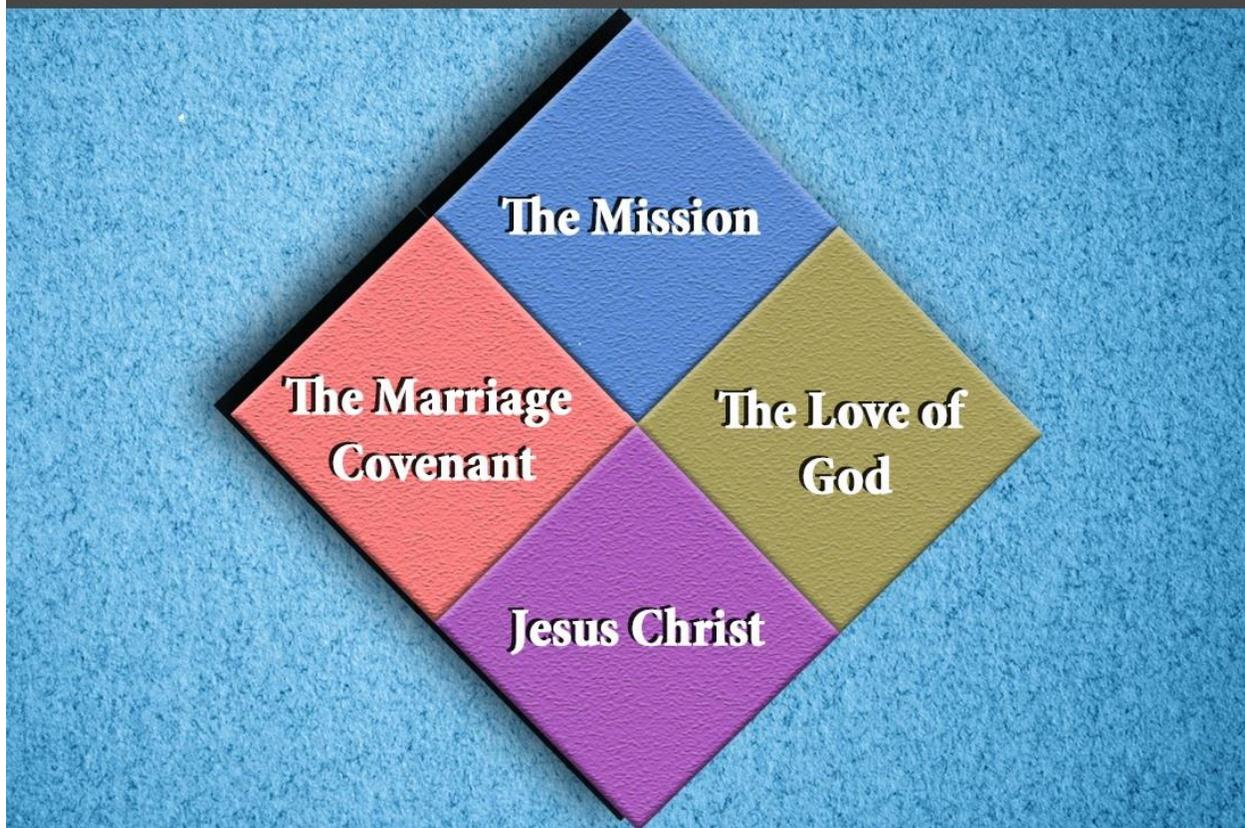


God's Blueprint For The Family
The Marriage Covenant

The Four Cornerstones In Gods Blueprint for the Family



In God's blue print for the family, there are 4 cornerstones. At the beginning of this series called "God's Blueprint For The Family" we will be studying these cornerstones and how to build our families upon them. All the other stones in God's building for the family are connected to these 4 cornerstones.



*Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:
Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a
foundation, a tried stone, a precious
cornerstone, a sure foundation;
whoever believes will not act hastily.*

Isaiah 28:16

The first cornerstone in God's blueprint for the family is Jesus Christ. He is the chief cornerstone. All the other corner stones and all the other stones are set in reference to Him.

The second cornerstone in God's blueprint for the family is God's marriage covenant.

Matthew 19:1-11

1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. 2 And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.

3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"

4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"

8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

NKJV

The Pharisees were the religious leaders of Israel. In their definition of the marriage covenant a man could divorce his wife for any reason.

Jesus gave the Pharisees God's original blueprint for the family in Genesis 1-2.

In God's original blueprint for the family God defined the marriage covenant as...

- [One man and one woman\(Gen. 1:27\)](#)
- [One flesh\(Gen. 2:24\)](#)
- [One life time](#)

These were the terms of a legitimate marriage covenant as defined by God in the beginning.

After the fall of man, God set clear boundaries for His chosen people Israel to preserve His original terms for marriage.

- [One man and one woman.](#)

[Lev. 18:22](#)

[22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.](#)

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- [One flesh.](#)

[Ex. 20:14](#)

[14 "You shall not commit adultery.](#)

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[Lev. 20:10](#)

[10 'The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.](#)

[NKJV](#)

- One life time.

Malachi 2:16

"For the Lord God of Israel says
That He hates divorce,
For it covers one's garment with violence,"
Says the Lord of hosts.
"Therefore take heed to your spirit,
That you do not deal treacherously."
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After the church was born at Pentecost, the apostles of Jesus set clear boundaries for the church to preserve God's original terms for marriage.

- One man and one woman.

Romans 1:26-27

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.
NKJV

1 Cor. 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.
NKJV

- One flesh.

Romans 13:8-10

8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
NKJV

1 Cor. 6:18-19

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.
NKJV

- One life time.

Rom 7:1-3

7 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

NKJV

1 Cor. 7:39

39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

NKJV

From the beginning of mankind, to the nation of Israel, to the church, God made His definition of the marriage covenant very clear.

- One man and one woman
- One flesh
- One life time

God's definition of the marriage covenant has been under attack since the beginning. It did not take long for mankind to reject God's definition of marriage. (Genesis 6:1)

Satan knows that any society that rejects God's definition of marriage will remove the greatest protection to his evil influence on the souls of the children in each new generation!

- From one man to one woman children learn the truth both men and women were created in the image of God and are complementary to the fulfillment of His purposes on the earth.

Same sex marriage teaches children that people are the product of evolution.

- From one flesh children learn the truth that sex is sacred and should only be practiced in marriage.

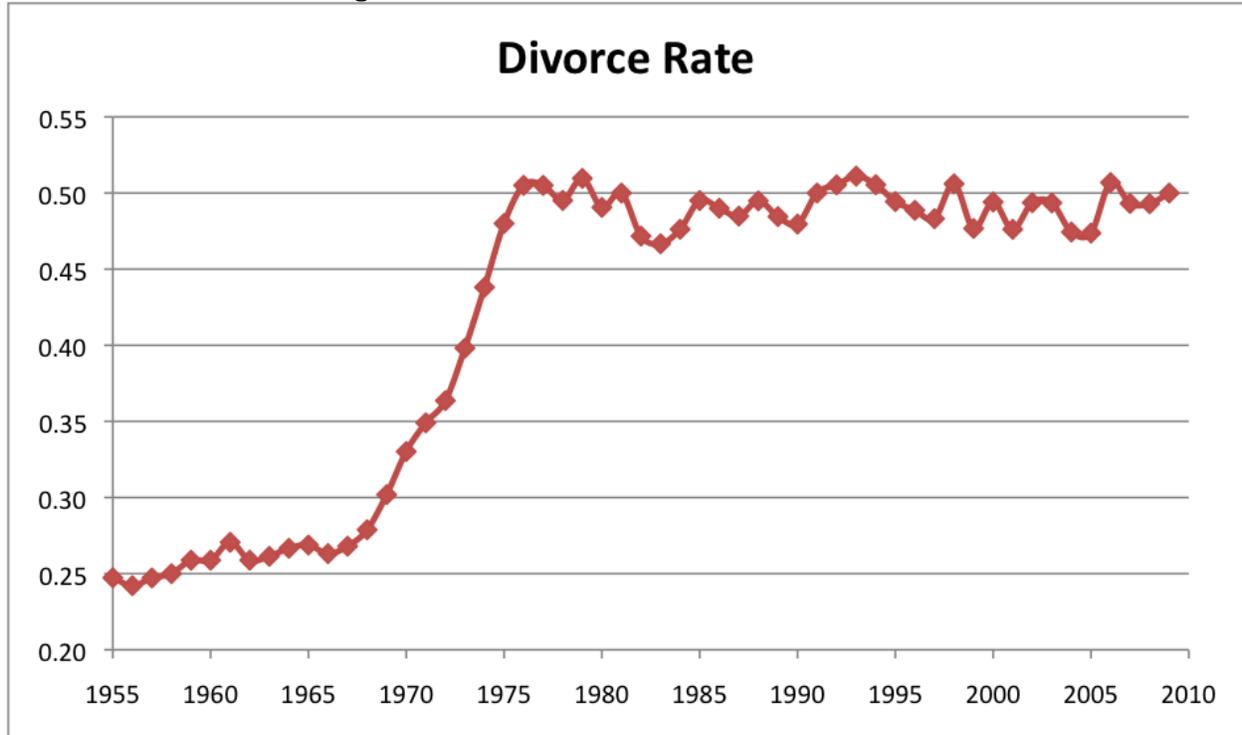
Adultery teaches children that if it feels good do it.

- From one life time children learn the truth that love means sacrificing yourself for the well-being of someone else.

From divorce children learn that what is most important in life is your personal happiness.

Any nation that rejects God's definition of marriage will experience such moral degeneration in its children that there will be an ever increasing need for civil authorities to have more power to rule over its citizens!

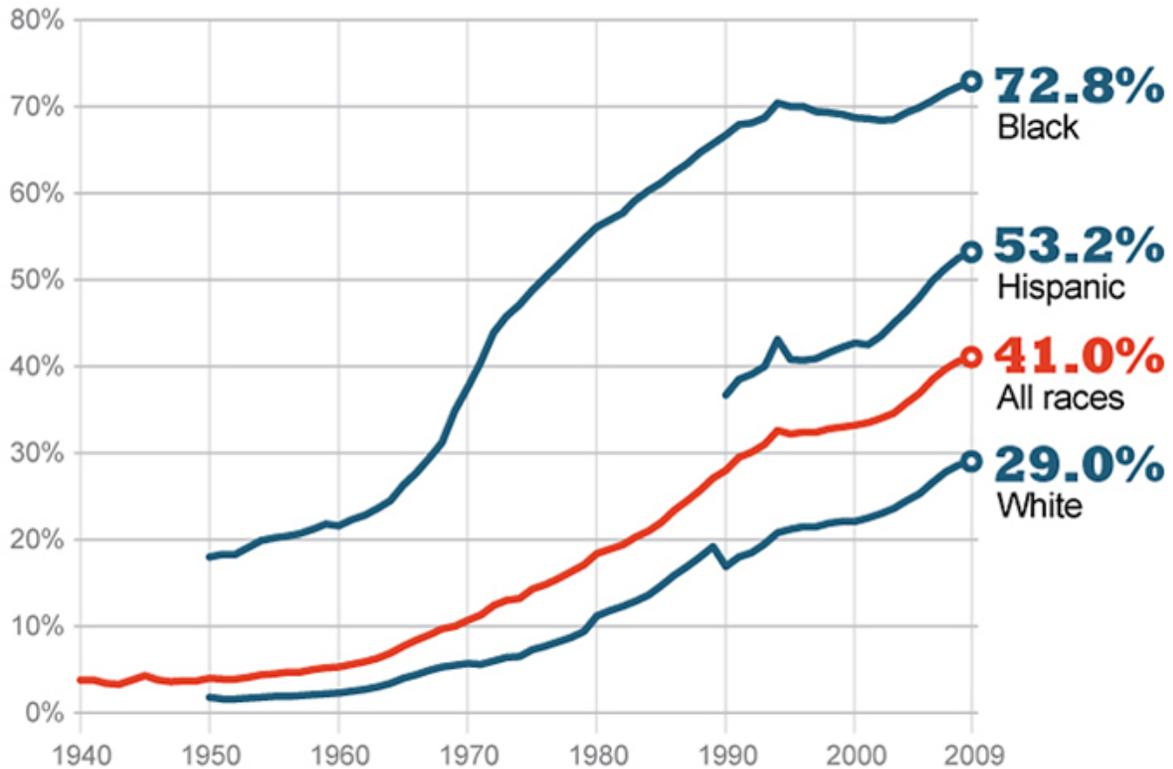
The moral future of any country depends upon following God's blueprint for the family and God's definition of marriage.



More than four in 10 children are born to unwed mothers

The percentage of children born outside of marriage has skyrocketed, with a six-fold increase since 1960. Currently, the figure is highest among blacks, but the rate of increase is highest among whites and Hispanics.

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS TO UNWED MOTHERS



The current moral degeneration in the children of our nation has been primarily caused by the rejection of God's definition of marriage by my generation.

The epidemic of divorce and unwed mothers that began in my generation has caused an epidemic of moral degeneration. The wall of protection around the family has collapsed.

[1 Peter 4:17](#)

[17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?](#)

[NKJV](#)

It is time to rebuild the wall of protection for the family and repentance begins in the church.

The church needs to repent for forsaking God's blueprint for the family and for rejecting God's definition of the marriage covenant.

In the church repentance begins with the men. We are God's designated leader of our family. We are the priest and prophet of our family.

If you are guilty of participating in homosexuality, you need to repent.

If you are guilty of adultery, you need to repent.

If you are guilty of divorce for any reason, you need to repent.

If you are single, you need to prepare yourself for marriage by making a commitment to save yourself for your marriage. Develop self-control now and do not believe the lie that getting married is going to make you morally virtuous.

Falling in love is not a sound foundation for moral virtue. Feelings change. Feelings are like shifting sand. You can't build moral virtue on feelings. Moral virtue is the result of a change of heart toward God. Moral virtue is the result of loving God.

If you are single and you have already compromised morally and become one flesh, repent toward God, love God, and develop self-control now.

What if you are married and you have been morally unfaithful to your spouse?

Repent toward God. Just like romantic feelings are not a good foundation for building moral virtue, repenting to save your marriage is not a good foundation for moral virtue. Feelings change. Repent toward God. Love God.

What if you have been unfaithful to your spouse and your spouse does not know about it?

You broke the covenant. God knows about it. Do you honestly think that almighty God is just going to let you get away with it? First of all, He is going to convict you about it until you repent toward Him and to your spouse. Until you repent, you are going to live with guilt, shame, and fear. When these three emotions are tormenting our soul, it affects us physically. We also normally make some really bad decisions when we are tormented by these emotions.

If you don't repent, your conscience will become seared. You will become illogical about the consequences of your actions. This will lead to more bad decisions.

If you don't repent, God may humble you by causing you to experience difficult circumstances that you did not expect.

Repent toward God. Love God.

After you repent to God, repent to your spouse. Admit that you broke your marriage covenant. You weren't just wrong. You didn't just make a mistake. You weren't just disloyal. You weren't just unfaithful. You didn't just sin. You broke the marriage agreement you made with your spouse and with God. You forfeited your rights to the marriage. The marriage agreement does not mean anything anymore. Divorce just publicly and practically settles your breach of the marriage agreement.

If you have been guilty of adultery, there is no such thing as rebuilding your marriage on the old marriage agreement. That old marriage agreement has been breached! It does not mean anything anymore.

If you repent to God and to your spouse, and your spouse is willing to reconcile, you need to make a new marriage agreement and build on it.

Loving God comes from the Holy Spirit when we receive Jesus Christ. Receive Jesus today and love God for the rest of your life!