

“The Protection of the Family”

Ephesians 5:28-6:4

THE PROTECTION THE FAMILY PROVIDES

1. The personal incentive of protection: love. v.28, 29, 33

- The family relationship provides a ‘selfish’ / ‘self-less’ dynamic.

2. The physical defense of protection. v.25

- Christ loved and gave himself up for the church (i.e., literally gave His life). Husbands: do the same!
- Men are called to physically protect their family—and lay down their life if necessary.
- Nehemiah 4:13: Then I stationed men in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with their swords, spears, and bows.

3. The sociological protection provided by the family.

- Research consistently shows ‘intact always-married’ family structures have highest sociological benefits.*
 - Physical abuse by family structure: *always* lowest in intact always-married family
 - 3-4 X’s higher in other family structures, 10 X’s higher in cohabitating step-family
 - Adolescent cocaine use: doubles in divorced families, triples in single mother/never married families.
 - Youth incarceration rate: doubles in divorced families, 3.5 X’s higher in cohabitating step-family
- The call to marriage is part of the cultural mandate, given before the Fall—to bless culture & the world.

4. Financial safety net provided by the ‘intact, always-married’ family.

- This family structure has the highest average net worth of households with children.
 - is 5 to 20 X’s higher than other family structures; lowest is “never married”
- Median income of households with children is highest in ‘intact, always-married’ category
- Children living in poverty is lowest in ‘intact, always-married’ category
 - 3-4 X’s higher in other family structures (divorced, single, etc.) and 7 X’s higher in cohab. step-families
- 1 Timothy 5:8: But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

→ **The God-ordained nuclear family unit provides a network, a web of protection.**

THE PROTECTION THE FAMILY NEEDS

1. There are groups and organizations committed to abolishing the family.

- Marxism—a central tenant is to ‘dismantle/destroy’ the nuclear family
 - BLM (“Black Lives Matter” – the organization). Prior to September 2020, their webpage stated:
 - We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, especially our children...*
 - *We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege.... We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking...*
- In September 2020, BLM ‘scrubbed’ their website to remove this language.

2. The spiritual forces of evil and darkness are committed to abolishing the family. Eph. 6:12f

Consider the ‘first family’... and the Very First ‘family’ (God the Father, Son & HS)... and the Church...

*Source: Dr. Pat Fagan, Marriage and Religion Research Initiative (MARRI) www.marri.us

The late Dr. E.V. Hill was once asked if he thought Jesus was Caucasian as depicted in paintings. His reply: “I don’t know anything about a white Jesus... I know about a Christ, a Savior named Jesus. I don’t know what color He is. He was born in the brown Middle East; He fled to black Africa; and He was in heaven before the gospel got to white Europe. So, I don’t know what color He is. I do know one thing: if you bow at the altar with color on your mind, you’ll get up with color on your mind. Go back again – and keep going back until you no longer look at His color, but at His greatness and his power – His power to save!”