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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **What about children and single-parent homes?**

## **Matthew 19:3-6**

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."

Here is God's plan for men and women.

- **God did not plan for boys and girls to have sex outside of marriage.** When this happens, very often a child is born and grows up in a single-parent home.
- **God did not plan for parents to divorce each other.** Again, when this happens, children grow up in single-parent homes.

Even when one parent dies, God's plan was for the remaining parent to remarry to provide a two-parent home for the children:

## **1 Timothy 5:14**

14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Children are the losers in a one-parent home. Listen to these statistics:

- 63% of all youth suicides are from fatherless homes.
- 90% of all homeless runaway children are from fatherless homes.

- 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes.
- 80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger come from fatherless homes.
- 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
- 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes.
- 70 % of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes.
- 85% of all youths sitting in prisons grew up in a fatherless home.

Here's what all of this translates into: It means that children from fatherless homes are:

- 5 times more likely to commit suicide
- 32 times more likely to run away
- 20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders
- 14 times more likely to commit rape
- 9 times more likely to drop out of high school
- 10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances
- 9 times more likely to end up in a state-operated institution
- 20 times more likely to end up in prison

God knew what He was talking about when He commanded men and women to have sex in marriage and to stay married. For the good of all society, couples need to have sex only in a committed marriage and children need to be reared in a two-parent home.

My friend, I'm here to tell you as a preacher and as a counselor to families who have gone thru divorce, children are the losers every time a divorce occurs. "What God has joined together, let not man put asunder." When children have to grow up in a home broken-up by divorce with step-parents, it is not "just as good as" living with both natural parents. Here's what happens most of the time (and those of you who are divorced know I'm speaking the truth):

- **The step-parent has little to no control over the step-children.** The natural parent will often object to any discipline being administered by the step-parent. And when children learn that they can "get away with murder" and nothing will happen, they take advantage of the situation and drive the step-parent crazy. This leads to more divorce and more broken homes.
- **Children threaten their natural parents to get what they want.** If the natural mother doesn't give the child what he wants, the child will threaten to leave and go

live with dad. If the dad doesn't give the child everything, then it's back to mom and so forth. (This scenario does not occur in homes where a parent had died, but it does occur in most divorced homes.)

What you have in both cases is a home where children are ruling the home – children who are not wise enough to know what is best for them are getting their own way about everything.

### **Proverbs 29:15**

15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Children do not know what is best for them. They are not wise enough to rear themselves. In broken homes there is often little guidance offered, or little guidance accepted or both.

My friend, the Lord's ways are best.

- Don't have sex unless you're ready to have a baby.
- Don't have a baby unless you're ready to provide that baby with a two-parent home – with both it's natural parents.
- If you're a girl, don't have sex with a man who refuses to marry you first and don't make a baby with a man who is uncommitted to keeping his word and unwilling to provide an income for the family.
- If you're a boy, don't have sex with a girl who refuses to marry you first and don't make a baby with a woman who is uncommitted to keeping her word and unwilling to stay home to provide instruction and guidance for the children she helped you to produce.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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