

# WHERE HAVE ALL THE FAMILIES GONE?

God created a beautiful world! Balance was a characteristic of God's original work. Natural laws governed the universe ensuring this balance. Air and water were pure with nothing to contaminate them. The ozone layer was intact and protected the earth from excess ultraviolet radiation. The earth was rich with nutrients and exceedingly productive. This was indeed a beautiful world!

It is easy to see that the world is not now in its original state, although the natural laws are still in place and function as intended. It is man that is out of control. We have contaminated the air and the water, pollution is rampant, and everywhere we see the signs indicating how we have mistreated God's creation.

We have also polluted the nuclear family created by God (parents and children living together). Families are coming apart. Consider the toll on human life coming from divorce: infidelity, abortion, drug and alcohol abuse, and family violence (whether physical, sexual, or psychological). Since the basic social unit is the family, all other aspects of life are impacted when the home fails!

Some claim that the difficulty in which the nuclear family finds itself proves the biblical idea of the family was bad to start with. However, more thoughtful people realize that the problems of the family are not due to God's planning, but rather to a failure to properly implement God's plan. Research on the nuclear family shows that a father and mother living with their children in an atmosphere of love, respect and proper discipline is superior in every way to any other combination that might be called "family." This is especially true for the welfare of the children.

Sociological and moral reform required to reestablish the nuclear family will demand massive changes in popular thinking. Enemies of the family as ordained by God want to believe there are no absolute truths. If all truth is relative and subjectively determined, the truth for us, leaving us free to do as we please. This view is the cause of a pervasive effort to reconstruct the family after human desires. In the process, we see the gradual destruction of the family as God intended it to be.

David said to the Lord, "All of your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal" (Psl. 119:160). Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:32). God has given the truth about the family, and mankind has ignored it. Hosea warned that

those who sow to the wind, will reap the whirlwind (Hos. 8:7), a truth illustrated in the demise of the nuclear family. The only solution is to go back to the original plan of God who designed the family. (Taken from "The Christian Family," unpublished work by Carl Mitchell, pp. 10-12).

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