

FAMILIES TODAY COMPARED WITH GOD'S IDEAL

Text: 2 Timothy 3:1-4

INTRO: One need not be a genius to detect that there are various problems that plague the families of our society today. I believe that most, if not all, family-related difficulties stem from 3 basic sources: the prevalence and acceptability of divorce, lack of discipline, and simple selfishness. The most basic of these is selfishness.

I. OUR PROBLEMS ARE NOT NEW. They are as old as the family of man.

A. Divorce was prevalent in 1st century society.

Matt. 19:10; 14:4

B. Lack of discipline. Solomon dealt with this theme repeatedly

Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14

C. Selfishness. prodigal son, 2 sons to work in vineyard

II. GOD'S IDEAL.

A. There has never been an ideal family.

1. Adam & Eve.

2. Abraham & Sarah.

3. David (& his 18 wives).

B. But from the beginning, there has been an ideal plan--and it has always been for our good, Gen 2:18; Deut 6:24.

C. I am going to read several verses with relatively little comment. Please listen, & take heed:

MATTHEW 19:4-6

EPHESIANS 5:22 through 6:4

TITUS 2:3-5

CONCLUSION: These passages, taken to heart by every husband and wife would solve the divorce problem. Taken to heart by every father and mother, they would solve the discipline problem. Taken

to heart by every accountable man, woman, and child in the home,
they would solve the selfishness problem.

Exton, PA, October 29, 2000 (lectureship)
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 4, 2001