

Crucial Doctrine for the Christian Household

Part 1: God the Creator, Man His Image

Glencullen Baptist Church

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Introduction: Our Hopes and Dreams for Family Life

- I. God made man, both male and female, in His image and likeness.
- II. Those who function as God's image are made to represent Him.
 - a. Human beings are, by definition, pictures of the infinite, invisible God.
 - b. God made finite representations of Himself to develop and rule His creation.
 - c. We can give a true or a false picture of God.
 - d. Sin has fundamentally distorted God's image in man.
 - e. Jesus Christ came to restore and glorify God's image in man.
- III. Marriage and the family are part of God's ordinary design for humanity.
- IV. Just as man exists to picture God, so marriage and the family exist to picture the relational nature of God.

For instance:

- Parent-child relationships exist to point to God the Father and God the Son.
 - Parent-child relationships also exist to point to God's relationship with His redeemed people.
 - Marriage exists to picture God's intimate communion with His people.
 - The differing roles of man and wife also exist to display different aspects of God's glorious character.
 - The marriage covenant exists to picture the God who keeps covenant.
 - God even uses sin in human relationships to glorify His pure righteousness and redeeming grace.
- V. Marriage and the family get their deepest significance from God's own nature rather than from the unique characteristics of individual people, couples, or families.
 - VI. In the eternal age to come, the pictures of marriage and family will be swallowed up by the deeper, eternal relationships to which they pointed.