

Introduction: God instituted Marriage for the purposes of:

- ▼ **Companionship:** "it is not good for man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18)
- ▼ **Reflecting more fully God's Character Together:** "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named..." (Ephesians 3:14-15)
- ▼ **As a covering:** "...wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord..." (Ephesians 5:22) "...the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God..." (1 Corinthians 11:3) **When the Bible uses the word "submit" it is talking more about a covering. (The Greek: "to get under and lift up, or to put in order.")**
- ▼ **Provide a Canopy of Protection for children:** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12 fifth commandment)

Text: **James 1:14-16** NIV

Outline:

I. Father's Defense Plan:

A. God would set us up for success. What God designs, if followed, WILL Work!

B. father of Lies: Satan knows this, so he has worked for centuries to break down and destroy the family system, that God designed, to create a perimeter of defense.

1. Man & Woman brought together. Full of excitement – drawn together by desire – love – and decide to get to know each other. God says: "Do not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever." 2 Corinthians 6:14
2. They date – learn about each other.
3. The man proposes marriage – they become engaged.
4. They get married. Become one flesh. The combine their lives – to do life together.
5. They start a family, if they are blessed enough to have children. They create a Canopy of love...a training ground for the fear of the Lord is instilled. **Proverbs 22:6** (NKJV) "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

II. **Abba's Defense Plan:**

A. Mom and Dad: serving the Lord. Trusting God. Receiving Guidance from God in how to raise their children. Kids see in real time, their whole growing up life, the example of two parents seeking God, and how God comes through for them all! Through ups and downs, seeing God faithful!

- Hearing their parents pray about problems. Hearing their own names being called out in prayer. Seeing God answer prayer and provide for them.
- Coming to God's house, as a family, to seek God together and lay a foundation of the families dependency upon God, their heavenly Father!
- Let your children see a Man and Woman of God who is not religious, but has a true relationship with Almighty God!

B. Satan seeks to Destroy: (John 10:10a)

- **Divorce**
- **Broken Families**
- **Multiple influences – increases the chances of godless influences raising a generation.**
- **Generations that do not know God. Do not Fear God, Do not value God's house and Do not believe in God.**
- **No Marriage – just live together, no commitment, don't involve God, bad example for kids – from multiple places.**
- **Two men married,**
- **Two women married,**
- **Two – three – who knows married... Where does it end.**
- **People who don't know what they are getting married...????**

NOTE: Let me stop here and say: this is not a message to give us a guilt trip over the situation you may find yourself in...this is to unveil the devils scheme to destroy...But there is One more powerful than satan that can redeem, heal, restore, and save!

III. **The Dads Defense:**

A. Be Filled with the Holy Spirit!

As long as the Holy Spirit is here on earth, there is hope... Dads, with God's help and the Holy Spirit living inside of them, can turn things around!

Malachi 4:6 ESV "And He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

B. Be the Priest of the Home.

Be the Spiritual leaders of your home!