

THE FAMILY UNIT quotes

1) Just how important is the family unit?

“That family, properly conducted, is a favorable argument to the truth, and the head of such a family will carry out the very same kind of work in the church as is revealed in the family. Wherever severity, harshness, and want of affection and love are exhibited in the sacred circle of the home, there will most assuredly be a failure in the plans and management in the church. Unity in the home, unity in the church, reveals Christ's manner and grace more than sermons and arguments.” Evangelism, p 342.

This means that how the family acts at home is exactly how they would act in the church family.

“God would have our families symbols of the family in heaven. Let parents and children bear this in mind everyday, relating themselves to one another as members of the family of God. Then their lives will be of such a character as to give to the world an object lesson of what families who love God and keep His commandments may be. Christ will be glorified...” The Adventist Home, p 17.

This means that being proper members of the family of God in heaven begins in the home.

2) The Government of the Family Unit In All Religious Matters

Religious issues deal with faith, truth, and belief in the God of heaven.

God is a God of order.

-- Lack of order leads to confusion, and God is not involved in confusion.

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” 1 Corinthians 14:33.

When examining all the instructions God gave in the books of Exodus and Leviticus regarding how the earthly sanctuary was to be built and constructed, including how the priests were to be dressed and how they were to minister before Him, you can clearly see that God is a God of order, and this order was perfect.

God is a God of law and government.

As the Creator of us all God is the Great Law Giver. This can be clearly seen in the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy dealing with the civil and moral laws God gave to govern and rule the children of Israel and all within their jurisdiction.

“If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.” Deuteronomy 30:10-14.

“Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God.” Leviticus 24:22.

-- God's government and rule of law brought great peace, prosperity and happiness to His people.

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalms 119:165.

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” Joshua 1:8.

“...he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Proverbs 29:18.

All those who chose to abide under God's rule of government and obeyed His commands obtained great peace, prosperity and happiness, and the same with us today. But if God had not given us His righteous law to govern us sinners, or if we choose not to follow these divine rules, then there would be nothing but disorder, chaos, confusion and destruction!

“We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.” Jeremiah 3:25.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God.” Hosea 4:6.

3) The form of government that God has established in all religious matters:

-- God the Father is the Head or Ruler over Jesus Christ.

“...the head of Christ is God.” 1 Corinthians 11:3.

-- Jesus Christ is the Head or Ruler over the church, which is composed of individual men, women and children.

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:12-18.

“Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore...the church is subject unto Christ”. Ephesians 5:23-24.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.” Isaiah 9:6-7.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power”. Colossians 2:8-10.

-- The form of ordained government that is established in every religious issue is: God; Jesus Christ; the individual man, woman or child.

-- The rule of law that is to be adhered to in every religious issue is: Every individual man, woman and child is to obey Jesus Christ, and Jesus is to obey God the Father.

4) We are always to obey Jesus in every religious issue, no matter what relationship we may have with any other human being. No human being has any right to demand obedience of any other human being, irregardless of age or relationship or authority, when this command goes counter to the command and will of the Lord God Jesus Christ!

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all they soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38.

“...Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” Matthew 4:10.

Even children can disobey the direct command of their parents if this command goes directly against the commands of God or Jesus Christ!

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:26-29.

5) In Christ there is no distinction between one human being versus another! This is because all men, women and children are the property of Christ, and thus are on an equal basis of importance in Him. God is no respecter of persons.

“...there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.” 2 Chronicles 19:7.

“When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it. Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right...without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.” Ezekiel 33:13-16.

“Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” Colossians 3:24-25.

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” Acts 10:34-35

-- What should you then do if you ever find yourself being commanded to do anything which goes against God's express will or commands?

"Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye....(for) we ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 4:19, 5:29.

"Beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake...Fear them not therefore...Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 10:17-18, 26, 32-33.

6) The Government of the Family Unit In All Non-religious Matters

Non-religious issues deal with every facet of family life and function that does not involve faith, truth or beliefs.

The form of government that God has established in all non-religious matters:

-- The Head or Ruler of Jesus Christ is God.

"But I would have you know, that...the head of Christ is God." 1 Corinthians 11:3.

-- The Head or Ruler of every man is Christ.

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ". 1 Corinthians 11:3.

-- The head or ruler of every woman is her husband.

"But I would have you know, that...the head of the woman is the man". 1 Corinthians 11:3.

-- The head or ruler of every child is their father and mother.

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 20:12.

“Ye shall fear (reverence) every man his mother, and his father...I am the LORD your God.” Leviticus 19:3.

“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.” Colossians 3:20.

-- The form of government that is to be established in every family is: God; Jesus Christ; the husband; the wife; the children.

-- The rule of law that is to be adhered to in every family is: Children are to obey their parents; the wife is to obey her husband; the husband is to obey Jesus Christ; and Jesus is to obey God the Father.

Establishing and adhering to this ordained form of government in the family will bring peace, prosperity and happiness. But not following it will bring disorder, chaos, confusion and destruction to the family.