

# **Abounding Grace Christian Church**

## **“Marriage and Family Matters” – Part 1**

**I. Introduction:** Everyone is aware that the institution of marriage is under attack in our society. Many today are deciding not to get married, they see no value in that kind of commitment. Many, including Christians, who do marry, end up getting a divorce. In this series, we are going to discover the God-given purpose of marriage and find out how to have a happy and fruitful one. No matter what your status in life, whether you’re married, single or widowed, you will be blessed and encouraged by these timeless Biblical truths.

### **II. Why is it so important to place an emphasis on marriage and the family?**

- A. Because the family is and always will be the basic building block of society. If the family collapses, society collapses.
- B. Because God places a high value on the family. We want to value what God values. God is into this thing called “family.” He designed it, created it and wants to use it for His glory.
- C. Because as the family goes, so goes the church. The church is God’s instrument in the earth to fulfill His eternal purpose. The church is made up of people and families. If the families are not powerful, the church will not be powerful.
- D. Because the modern world is trying to redefine the family.

The traditional concept of family that corresponds to the biblical concept of family is **“the group comprised of a husband and wife and their dependent children, constituting a fundamental unit in the organization of society.”** It is this definition that is under attack in today’s world.

### **III. As Christians, we’re commanded to not Conform to this World - Romans 12:1-2.**

- A. There are all sorts of “politically correct” pressures that try to pressure us to conform.
- B. If you don’t conform, you could lose your job, get kicked out of your group, called a bigot or a hater and the list could go on. All of this is an attempt to intimidate and manipulate us into conforming to the world’s way of thinking.
- C. Satan is called “the god of this world” (II Corinthians 4:4) so if you go with the world, you’re going with Satan.

**“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of the wicked one.*” – I John 5:19**

- D. Friendship with the world is enmity with God – James 4:4. (NOTE: We’re not of this world so the world hates us. John 15:18-23; 17:14-19.)

**“You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world’s friend is being God’s enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God.” – James 4:4 – Amplified Bible**

**“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”**

**I John 2:15-17**

**“Do not love or cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.**

**For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh [*craving for sensual gratification*] and the lust of the eyes [*greedy longings of the mind*] and the pride of life [*assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things*]-- these do not come from the Father but are from the world [*itself*].**

**And the world passes away and disappears, and with it the forbidden cravings (the passionate desires, the lust) of it; but he who does the will of God and carries out His purposes in his life abides (remains) forever.**

**I John 2:15-17 – Amplified Bible**

## E. Confronting the World's Culture.

1. There is much being said today about the “**modern family**”. The world says that we need to evolve in our thinking about what marriage and family really is. We need to become more enlightened and not be so “**old fashioned**.”
  2. TRUTH never Changes!!.. There is no “your truth” and “my truth”. Genuine truth is transcendent.
  3. The more we, as a society, push God out of schools, government, family, etc., the further we get away from truth, and the further we get away from truth, the more deceived we are and the more deceived we are the more destruction enters our lives.
  4. Satan, the god of this world, doesn’t want God in anything because he has an ultimate goal of destroying humanity.
  5. It’s important to understand that the further humanity gets from God’s plan and pattern for marriage and family, the more people’s lives are destined for destruction. Real love for people compels us to speak truth even if we are called intolerant, bigots, haters, etc. because we’re trying to save people from hurt, anguish and destruction.
6. **Three words we hear today which are being used dangerously.**
- a. **Diversity**
  - b. **Inclusion**
  - c. **Tolerance**
- 1) People say things like; “**Jesus would love and accept us just the way we are.**” Or, “**If you love me, you’ll accept who I am and everything I do.**”
  - 2) **Is that true??**
  - 3) Jesus actually preached REPENTANCE, AND BELIEVING!
  - 4) I can love you and absolutely despise your sin!! God loves us but He doesn’t love everything about us and everything we do!!!
  - 5) Does the Scripture teach “**inclusion**”? Not the way the world tends to teach it! The Word teaches **SEPARATION!! II Corinthians 6:14-18.** (**NOTE: We’re not all “children of God” – John 8:44**)
  - 6) **I Corinthians 5:1-13 – Does this sound inclusive?**
    - a) Verse 2 – “**puffed up**” – Maybe they considered themselves “enlightened” or “progressive”. People today say, “**Well, you can’t help who you love.**” What many call “**love**” today is actually infatuation, lust and obsession. Others say things like, “**Well, I can’t help it, I was born this way.**” Though there are many problems with this thinking, we need to realize that we were all born with a sin nature and we all have evil tendencies. If we all decided, “**this is just the way I am.**”, where does it stop? Someone might say, “**Well, I was born a pedophile, or, I was born a murderer, etc.**

## 7. Jeremiah 6:16-19 – The “old paths” are the “good way.”

“**Thus says the Lord: Stand by the roads and look; and ask for the eternal paths, where the good, old way is; then walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk in it!**”

**Jeremiah 6:16 – Amplified Bible**

a. Jeremiah’s message: **3:14-18, 22; 4:1-4, 8**

7. **There is no need to “update” Perfection!** An attempt to change that which is perfect only brings imperfection. Attempting to change the definition of marriage and family from what God has designed it to be only leads to imperfection.