



Middleburg Memos

Pastor Bobby Lewis
Senior Pastor

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Few confessions of faith throughout the history of the church have included articles on _____ and the _____ because Christians through the centuries have been _____ in a _____ understanding of God's plan for marriage, family, and children.

In adding this article to the BF&M in _____, Southern Baptists boldly declared an unwavering _____ to the _____ vision of the family as our standard and witness.

The modern _____ concept of the family is largely driven by _____ theories and assumes that marriage and the traditional family structure are merely products of human social _____. Thus, proponents of the secular view believe that because the family is simply a sociological development, it can be _____ and _____ to meet modern expectations. Christians must _____ otherwise.

We believe marriage, which was instituted by God _____ the _____, was a central part of God's _____ for humanity from the _____ (_____).

The BF&M affirms that God ordained the family "as the _____ of human _____." This truth directly refutes modern society's assumption that the basic unit of a civilization is the _____.

In our confused times many people celebrate what is described as a _____ of family _____. Although Christians recognize that families can and do experience _____, we must also assert that God's purpose and intention are that we _____, _____, and _____ ties of biblical _____, _____, and _____.

The family is not a _____ for social _____ but an

_____ in which God's glory is shown to the world in the right ordering of human _____.

God honored marriage by establishing the metaphor of the _____ and the _____ to express the relationship between _____ and His _____. This metaphor helps us to understand the _____, _____, and _____ that are to characterize marriages.

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The Bible establishes _____ as the only proper arena for and channel of _____. This shared gift of _____ is intended to _____ the marital bond and to _____ the _____ of the relationship between the husband and the wife.

The BF&M affirms that both "husband and wife are of _____ before God" and explains that both the man and the woman are created in _____ (Genesis 1:27).

The BF&M espouses a _____ rather than _____ position. It is important to remember that a _____ Christian _____ is a powerful illustration of the _____.

The Bible reveals that children are to be received as _____ and _____ from God. Parents are to raise their children "in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). This is a demanding task in our confusing times, but parents are to lead children "through _____ lifestyle example and loving _____" so that they will make choices and decisions "based on _____."

Children are also assigned responsibility to _____ and _____ their parents, for this is pleasing to God and a testimony to His loving purpose for the family.

We live in a time when the definition of *family* is a matter of _____ and _____ and when the culture is confused about the definition of *marriage*. Christians bear the unique _____ to _____ the truth, to _____ the truth, and to _____ to God's loving intention in establishing marriage and the family for our _____ and His _____.

God gave us marriage and family for our _____ and our _____, but He also created them as structures of _____ so that we can live holy lives, demonstrating His _____, _____, and _____ as we fulfill all the

responsibilities and roles assigned to marriage and the family.

Cross-References: *Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15, 17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8, 14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7*