

A New Spiritual Family

Trevor Carr, November 29, 2020



GOD'S DIVINE PURPOSE FOR FAMILY

God has chosen to govern His creation in partnership with human beings. This was His plan from the very beginning as he gave Adam and Eve dominion over all of creation instructing them to bring it under authority and fill it with his likeness. The first governmental authority structure was a family.

This family in relationship with God was commissioned to be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion. This threefold commission is God's best for humanity, for the earth and for the animal kingdom. There is no greater commission than to fill the earth with the likeness of God, through God's authority, in intimate relationship with God, with the family of God.

...in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion ..." (Gen. 1:27-28)

Family is one of the strongest forms of unity among individuals. Unlike animals God cultivated a longing in Adam's heart for an equal counterpart. God took one of Adam's ribs and fashioned Eve as a unique yet equal counterpart to have dominion over the earth alongside him. Though they were two they were one flesh, the image of God.

And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (Gen. 2: 22-25)

God established an order in which responsibility is given and held accountable within the family. God gave the charge to have dominion to Adam as the head of the governmental order first. When sin entered the scene, though Eve was the first to eat the fruit, God questioned Adam first. Though equal in value God distinguished man as the head of the home to carry the responsibility of teaching and obeying God's word and then his wife with him. This is in direct relation to God's trinitarian union.

3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (1 Cor. 11:3)

A New Spiritual Family

Trevor Carr, November 29, 2020



The purpose and structure of the family established in Genesis is of a priestly nature. God instructed Adam and Eve to “cultivate and keep” the Garden of Eden, the place where God would meet with man in the cool of the day. The Hebrew phrase “cultivate and keep” is used only to describe priestly responsibilities in the tabernacle and temple throughout the rest of the Bible (**Num. 3:7-8; 8:25-26; 18:5-6; 1 Chron. 23:32; Ezek. 44:14**). This family was meant to fill the earth with God’s likeness, establish His authority, and cultivate the place where God would meet with man.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. (Gen. 2:15)

Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience. They were cast out of the Garden of Eden where they were meant to cultivate and keep a meeting place with God. A curse was laid on mankind. Fruitful multiplication would be difficult as pain was added to childbearing. Struggle over family leadership would make unity difficult. Cultivation would be difficult as God's provision that was freely given would now have to be toiled over. Apart from God mankind spiraled downward morally and quickly became murderous. But God also promised that a seed, or child of the woman would crush the works of satan.

ABRAHAM, THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS

Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience. They were cast out of the Garden of Eden where they were meant to cultivate and keep a meeting place with God. Apart from God mankind spiraled downward morally and quickly became murderous. God promised that a seed, or child of the woman would

God's purpose for family did not change so he looked for a man to establish his covenant. God revealed himself to Abraham and established his family as a chosen people and a royal priesthood through the Abrahamic covenant in three parts focussing on a promised land, promised descendants, and the promise of blessing and redemption (Gen. 12:1-3, 15:12-21, 17:1-14)

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Gen. 12:1-3)

Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after

A New Spiritual Family

Trevor Carr, November 29, 2020



you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. (Gen 17:4-7)

God established Abraham and his descendants as a chosen family through whom all of the families of the earth would be blessed. Through Abraham's family, the nation of Israel, God reestablished the priestly purpose of cultivating a meeting place with God and making His ways known. Israel is God's chosen nation to restore His intended purpose of governing the earth in relationship with mankind through family. This threefold covenant restores the intended purposes for the family originally given in the garden of eden.

Fruitful multiplication: Abraham would be the father of a great nation, and a multitude of nations.

Subdue the earth: God would bless those who bless them and curse those who curse them.

Have Dominion: King's would come from him. God made a covenant with King David revealing that his descendants would rule over Israel and One would have an everlasting throne.

I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. (2 Sam. 7:12-14)

A NEW SPIRITUAL FAMILY

Through Israel we have received the greatest blessing, Jesus Christ. In Him we have the promised seed who crushes the works of satan, the king who rules forever, and the priest who provides access to God.

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David (Luke 1:32)

Jesus is returning to rule from Jerusalem on the throne of His father David and Israel will be exalted above the nations. Every promise made to Israel through the Abrahamic Covenant, Davidic Covenant, and throughout the books of the prophets will be fulfilled. When Jesus returns Israel will receive Him as their Lord and King and all Israel will be saved.

And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; 27 "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." (Rom. 11:26-27)

While Israel is the first chosen nation, Abraham was promised to be the father of many nations. The election of Israel is not exclusive. In the same way the church has not replaced Israel in the place of

A New Spiritual Family

Trevor Carr, November 29, 2020



promise. A new spiritual family has been established that those who have the faith of Abraham might become the children of Abraham.

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." 9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Gal. 3:7-9)

Those who believe in their heart and confess with their mouth have access to salvation from sin, a relationship with God, a spiritual inheritance of eternal life, and all spiritual blessings in heavenly places including the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit by grace through faith in Jesus. But there is more!

Where there once was a division between Israel and the rest of the nations, in Jesus the division is torn down making a way for all who believe to partake of the promises given to Israel.

...Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Eph 2:12-13)

The church is also grafted into the rich spiritual heritage of Israel. We who once had no history with God now have the testimony, the covenants, the promises and the inheritance of the nation of Israel as children of Abraham. We can draw strength from this heritage knowing that we have been grafted into a kingdom of priests and that God will show the same kindness and faithfulness that He has to our new spiritual family.

...You, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. (Rom 11:17-18)

PURPOSE RESTORED

God has made a way for us to partake in the original purpose of family. It is greater than our individual families, local church family, or denominations. Our new spiritual family in relationship with God is commissioned to be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion. This threefold commission is God's best. There is no greater commission than to fill the earth with the likeness of God, through God's authority, in intimate relationship with God, with the family of God.

A New Spiritual Family

Trevor Carr, November 29, 2020



"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me (*dominion*). 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (*fruitful multiplication*), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (*subdue*). And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you that what was written in the former days is for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant us to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together we may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 3:17-19)

QUESTIONS

What can you begin to do today to cultivate your home as a meeting place with God?

How can you better connect with your spiritual heritage to strengthen your faith and walk with God?

How does God's purpose for family change the way you think about the church?