



● **Disclaimer #1**- This series has nothing to do with the popular and bawdy TV series... **Disclaimer #2**- This series is for **everybody**.

● **Premise #1**- There are **no** perfect families, **no** perfect marriages, **no** perfect parents and **no** perfect children. **Premise #2**- There is **help** and **hope** from God for our households. Psalm 127:1

The Changing Face of the American Family

■ Many voices are saying that the American family is in **deep trouble**.

Did you know that since 1960:

- ◇ The **divorce rate** in our country has doubled?
- ◇ Single parent households have **tripled**?
- ◇ Couples living together out of wedlock have **quadrupled**?
- ◇ **Domestic violence** has quadrupled?
- ◇ Teenage **pregnancy** in America is the highest of any western developed nation?
- ◇ **Sex abuse** statistics are outdated as soon as the ink is dry.

■ One mistake was our assessment of how **resilient** the family really is.

Three Changes in Thinking about the Family

■ That **divorce** would do minimum damage to the family unit.

Malachi 2:16

- ◇ Part of the reason why God is so opposed to divorce is because of the **damage** it does to those involved. Divorce packs more than enough destructive punch to do **soul shattering** damage.

■ That parent **substitutes** have virtually the same nurturing effect on children as parents themselves.

- ◇ The family is just a series of careless or naive **decisions** away from serious rupture of some kind...and that is why the Bible is filled with admonition and encouragement to families.

Psalm 127:3; Colossians 3:21

■ That a **value free** approach to child rearing and education is best.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

- ◇ Biblical wisdom has held for thousands of years that parents are **accountable** for teaching, modeling, and instilling **faith** and **virtue** in their children.
- ◇ Add to this a dramatic shift in our public education approach in the early 60's: the prohibition of prayer in the public schools, and the intentional transition away from **character based** educational methods to **value free** educational methods.
- ◇ Millions of students were coming to schools from homes where they had no moral **history** or **context** and were never given a moral **compass** with which to navigate these difficult moral issues.
- ◇ Raise a child without the knowledge and comfort that there's a God in heaven who loves them and you've done that child a horrible **disservice**. Fail to instill basic moral values in his or her life, you've robbed that child of the critical **support** that he or she needs to stem the flood tide of **evil** that's coming their way every day.

Conclusion:

● "Take Homes"

"Desperate Households" next week: "Help! Where Are the Instructions?"