

AUSTRAL

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

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WAR ON THE FAMILY

From time immemorial the God-ordained traditional family of father (breadwinner), mother (home-maker) and dependent children has been the fundamental unit of society. Yet over the last thirty years the traditional family has been under increasing attack from all sides. And it's getting worse every day. In Australia it virtually began when the Family Law Act of 1975 opened the floodgates of divorce by devaluing marriage by making divorce possible after 12 months' separation with no guilty party. Since then, governments have encouraged alternative lifestyles such as single parenthood with generous financial incentives to have children who will be subsidised by the state; the imposition of taxation and interest rate policies that have driven many women into the workforce at the expense of their children's upbringing, with the consequent need for a plethora of child care centres to provide care facilities for children while mothers work; the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which has seriously undermined parental authority; granting de facto relationships the same status as marriage; and special rights for homosexual couples, including a nationwide registry scheme of same-sex civil unions that will eventually lead to making homosexual marriage inevitable. But that is not all. Far from it! The traditional family is constantly under fire from the media. Night after night the television screens project scenes of de facto relationships, homosexuality and lesbianism, fornication, adultery, blasphemy, sexual violence, profanity and nudity---all grist for the unchristian anti-family mill.

Pornography

There is also another enemy of the family, a very subtle, barely visible but deadly influence at work that few realise its malignant effect. It is pornography. Many may argue that pornography is harmless, that no one is hurt by it, and that it is only right that people should be able to read and watch what they like whether in magazines or on television, x-rated videos or the internet. Seldom has a greater lie been promulgated Pornography is devastating to the moral well-being of the individual and the nation. As surely as poison will kill us from within, so moral pollution will eat out the very fibre of our being. A prominent US psychiatrist who treated 350 pornography addicts testifies that when subjects were exposed to hardcore, non-violent adult pornography over a six-week period they developed an increased callousness toward women; they trivialised rape as a criminal offence; they developed distorted perceptions about sexuality; they desired more deviant, bizarre, deviant and violent types of pornography; they devalued the importance of monogamy and they lacked confidence in marriage as a lasting institution; and they viewed non-monogamous relationships as normal behaviour. Ironically pornography is called "free expression", but it is the worst kind of slavery. Marriages are broken and families destroyed by the illicit sex it produces---and if you destroy the family, you destroy the nation. God created sex to bind a husband and wife together and to bring love and respect into marriage and family. Yet sexual promiscuity is tearing couples apart and destroying lives; it is a disease that is rampant in our society from the highest to the lowest. The vicious cycle often begins with pornography, but the whole ugly network encompasses lust, adultery, sodomy, 1ape, violence, abused children, rebellious teenagers, guilt and depression, AIDS and other SIDs, broken homes and even murder. (Not to mention abortion, humanity's most callous, inhumane sin against the unborn in the mother's womb.) The end result is poverty, sickness and death, ultimately leading to divine judgment. Consequently the family is continually losing ground against these immoral, persuasive forces pitted against it. In fact, in this new so-called enlightened 21st century, we no longer have the traditional family but all kinds of unions being regarded as "families" homosexual and lesbian couples, single, unmarried mothers, de facto relationships---you name it, you have it.

Immoral Counterfeits

According to our modern trendy pop kind of thinking that is rapidly spreading among academics and social workers to the general public, the family is not breaking down, it's merely changing. Well, it certainly is, but these new groupings are not families. They are immoral counterfeits that are fast eroding the traditional family. Yet it doesn't even stop there! Forces are at work in this crazy, mixed-up world to turn society into a gender-free wilderness where the line between male and female does not exist. We are now well on the way to creating a so-called utopian society where it won't matter if one is homosexual or bisexual or heterosexual. Everyone will have the choice---with the full support of society---to act, dress or even biologically exist as either a male or a female. (Even the present-day practice of calling everyone---man, woman, boy, girl--- "guys" is designed to blur the differences between the sexes.) Consequently, in this way, all pressure on singles to marry, married couples to remain together, parents to make sacrifices for their children, or children to accept any form of parental authority is taken away. In other words, it undermines the solid pillars of good family life.

The Shadowy Fringes

Such could well be the state of our society after decades of chipping away at the foundation of the traditional family. Attitudes to life that once only frequented the shadowy fringes are more and beginning to move toward centre stage in both courts and legislative chambers. Bit by bit, activists in the feminist/humanist/atheist camp are codifying their twisted vision into reality, aggressively pushing new laws and creating new precedent in the judicial record, giving them the legal power to stamp out dissent. If there is no end to this madness and common sense is thrown to the winds, gender confusion will reign supreme as the human race implodes upon itself. In effect, this push to replace biological sex with "gender identity" and to make sexual orientation an individual choice is to deny the reality of the creation when God made a conscious decision to make the human species male and female. Scripture makes it clear that God does not want any of this nonsense of blurring of the sexes. His Word says unequivocally, "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man. Nor shall a man put on a woman's garment; for whoever does these things is an abomination to God." Our mixed-up world today provides growing evidence of the confusion that results when God-given laws such as this are flouted.

Enough Is Enough

Australia, it's time to take stock! Just where are we heading? What is our future when the cornerstone of society is constantly under attack? Children need both fathers and mothers. They need the love, respect, security and discipline that only the real family can provide. The time has come to say "enough is enough". We have suffered long enough the barbs of the evil one against the traditional family and it's time to fight back. Consider these wise words of the great English statesman, Edmund Burke, and take them to heart: "The Christian religion by confining marriage to pairs and rendering the relationship indissoluble has by these two things done more towards the peace, happiness, settlement and civilisation of the world than any part in this scheme of divine wisdom." As we face an unknown future, let it be in the assurance that we are following this divine wisdom. In doing this we must again put a strong emphasis on the scriptural teaching on marriage, fidelity, chastity and respect as virtues to be encouraged in the younger generation for the stability of the family structure. There needs to be a return to the innocence (shyness) and beauty of romantic love, with its inherent qualities of care and respect—indeed a return to the whole Christian ethic. Come on, Australia, return to these hallowed values so you can emerge triumphant from the mire into which you are now sinking before it is too late. In doing so, you will indeed again be blessed by the One who gave you this institutional masterpiece.

PRAYER

Hallelujah! The Lord God Almighty reigns in His Living Word, JESUS CHRIST, in infinite grace, holiness and truth through His omnipotent Spirit that abides in His called, justified and sanctified chosen children in the Family of Faith. Omniscient Father, we who are cleansed by the blood of Jesus love, praise and worship You through our Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST, the one who was by Your side at the creation of heaven and earth. Dear Covenant-keeping God Almighty, Whose Spirit within us reveals the truths of Your Holy Word, thank You that on the Cross You conquered all the powers of darkness in this world of sin, pride, lust and death. Thank You, Sovereign Lord, as our Great I AM, You reveal glimpses into the unfathomable depths of Your very heart and nature through Your many names in the Holy Scriptures. Sovereign Lord, encourage us as Your watchmen, that our message, War on the Family, will be heeded, our present immorality repented of and our whole nation restore the family as the inviolate cornerstone of society. Merciful Father, touch the wounded hearts of fathers, mothers and leaders of this nation to deeply repent of their wicked ways and become children of the Living God through faith in Your Son, JESUS CHRIST, to Your honour and glory. Amen

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man; in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.