

Scripture Reading

with Stephenie Khoo

Genesis 1: 26 - 31 (NIV)



Gen 1: 26-31 (NIV)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Gen 1: 26-31 (NIV)

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.”
And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

CAC Loving Families Sunday

Genesis 1 & 2

Rev Philip Lim



新加坡卫理公会华人年议会
Chinese Annual Conference
The Methodist Church in Singapore

3 couples married for 50 years or more spill secrets to long-lasting love



Judith Tan
Correspondent

UPDATED FEB 25, 2024, 01:00 AM ↗

*** God's idea of marriage and family**

*** Singleness**

*** Grace of God**



GENESIS 1: 26-27

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So **God created mankind** in his own image, **in the image of God** he created them; male and female he created them.



GENESIS 2:7

Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils **the breath of life**, and the man became a living being.

GENESIS 2: 21-23

So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."





CAC Loving Family Sunday

GENESIS 2: 21-23

So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and **he brought her to the man.**

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."



The purpose of marriage



CAC Loving Family Sunday - God's idea of marriage and family

GENESIS 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, “**Be fruitful and increase in number**; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”



Singaporeans prefer to have just one child, instead of being childless: Study



Theresa Tan
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State of the Family 2022: What do our young people think about marriage and having kids?

If the idea of committing yourself to one person for the rest of your life and raising kids together scares you, you're not alone. As someone who got married relatively early, our writer reflects on his own journey after hearing sentiments like these at State of the Family 2022.

At first glance, some of the statistics relating to marriage, divorce and childbearing that were presented at Focus on the Family Singapore's 8th State of the Family seemed to make for grim reading.

The event, which was graced by Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law K Shanmugam as the guest-of-honour, centred on presenting and discussing challenges to families in Singapore, ranging from marriages to mental health.

Held on March 10, it was attended on-site and online by more than 500 participants representing schools, social service agencies, faith-based organisations and community partners.

In the main presentation, Alicia Boo, Chief, Impact, and Principal Counsellor at Focus on the Family Singapore, underscored certain trends which revealed that more Singaporeans are delaying marriage and increasingly reluctant towards having children.

Putting together reports from 2021, the situation suggests that marriages in Singapore are on a downward trajectory. For instance:

- + Fewer Singaporeans are getting married and having children than 10 years ago.
- + More marriages are ending in divorce especially among those recently married.
- + Half of singles surveyed view marriage is important but fewer want kids, with cost of living, the stressful education system and the lack of time to spend with children as top concerns.

State of the Family Report 2022

- **Fewer Singaporeans are getting married and having children than 10 years ago.**
- **More marriages are ending in divorce especially among those recently married.**
- **Half of singles surveyed view marriage is important but fewer want kids, with cost of living, the stressful education system and the lack of time to spend with children as top concerns.**

Source from: <https://thirst.sg/what-do-our-young-people-think-about-marriage-and-having-kids/>

GENESIS 1: 28-30

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” **Rule over** the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. **They will be yours** for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.



CAC Loving Family Sunday - God's idea of marriage and family – The purpose of marriage

Genesis 2: 18

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Genesis 2: 21-23

Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”



*** Procreation**

*** Working together**

*** Companionship**



1 Cor 7:7-9

I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has **your own gift from God**; one has this gift, another has that. Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.



1 Cor 7:29

What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that **the time is short.** From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not;



1 Cor 7: 17, 28, 32-35

¹⁷ Nevertheless, each person **should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them**, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches...²⁸ But **if you do marry, you have not sinned**; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

³² I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how **he can please the Lord**.³³ But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—³⁴ and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband.³⁵ I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that **you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord**.

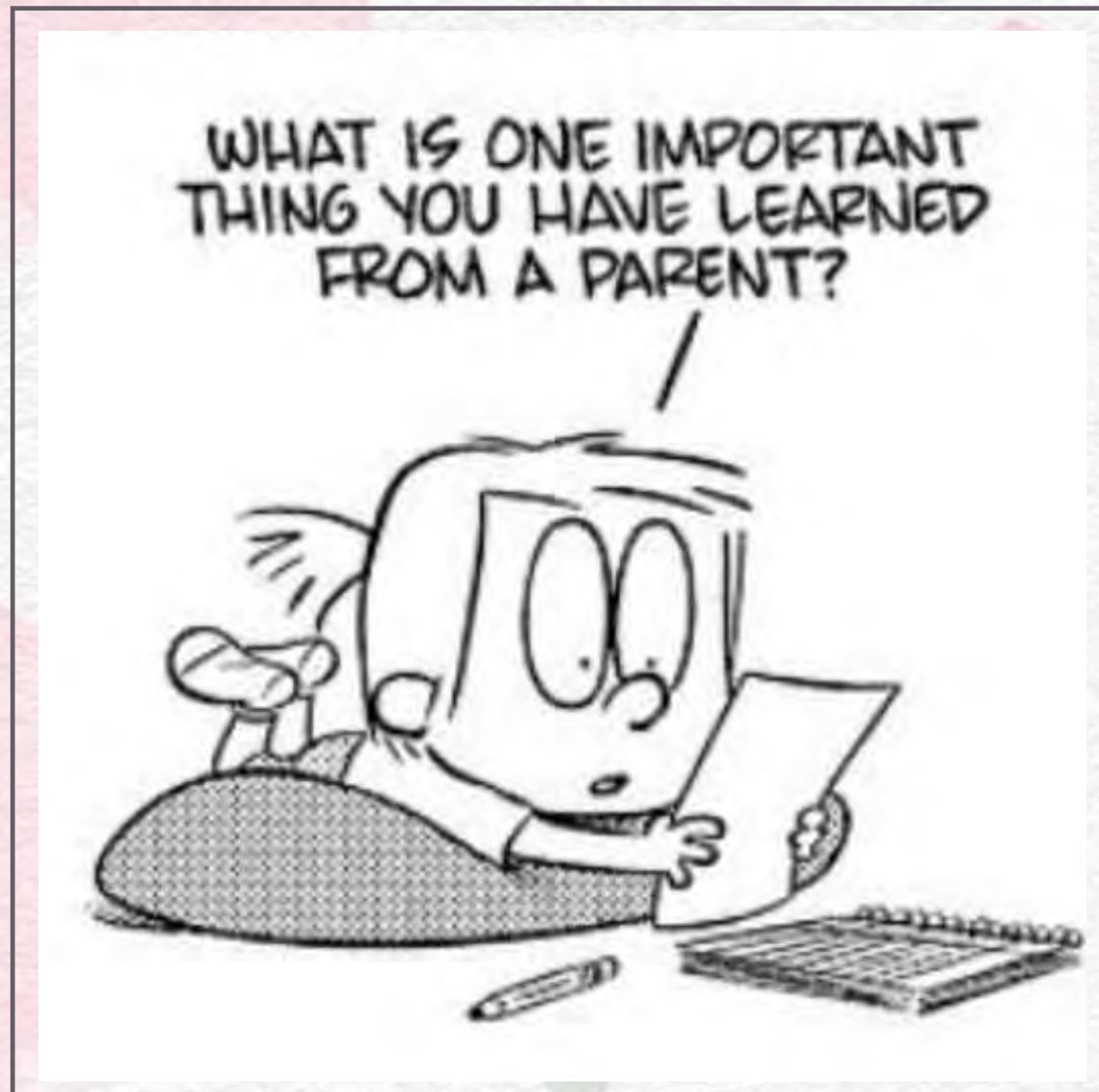
1 Tim 5: 3-5 & 14

Honor widows who are actually widows; but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to show proper respect for their own family and to give back compensation to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. Now she who is actually a widow and has been left alone has set her hope on God, and she continues in requests and prayers night and day.

Therefore, I want younger *widows* to get married, have children, manage their households, and give the enemy no opportunity for reproach;



BABY BLUES: By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Source: [GoComic.com/babyblues](https://www.gocomic.com/babyblues)

CAC Loving Family Sunday

Deut 6: 6-9

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.



FAITH

When rebellious kids happen to praying parents

Rev Dr Tan Soo-Inn // March 21, 2023, 2:39 pm

2 Corinthians 12:9a

But he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”**



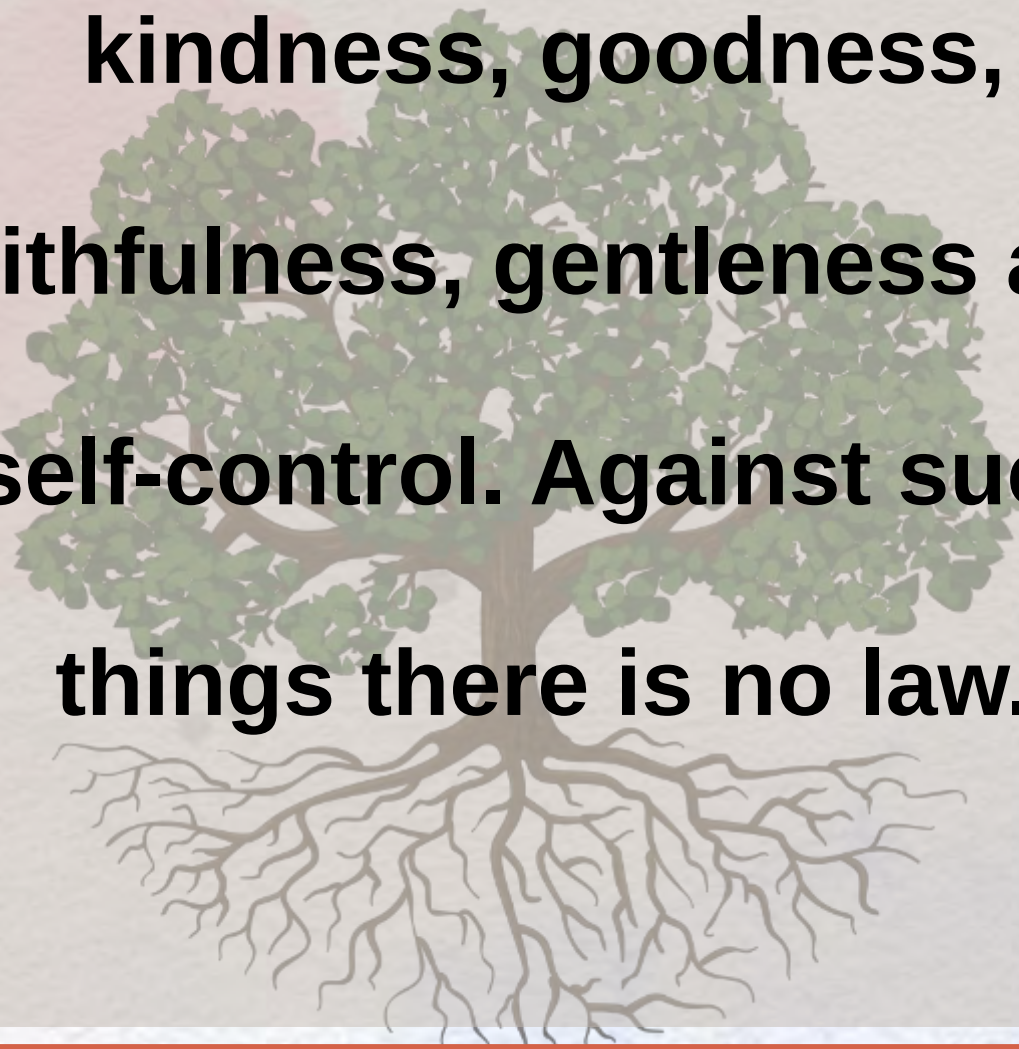
Rom 5:5

And hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured out into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.



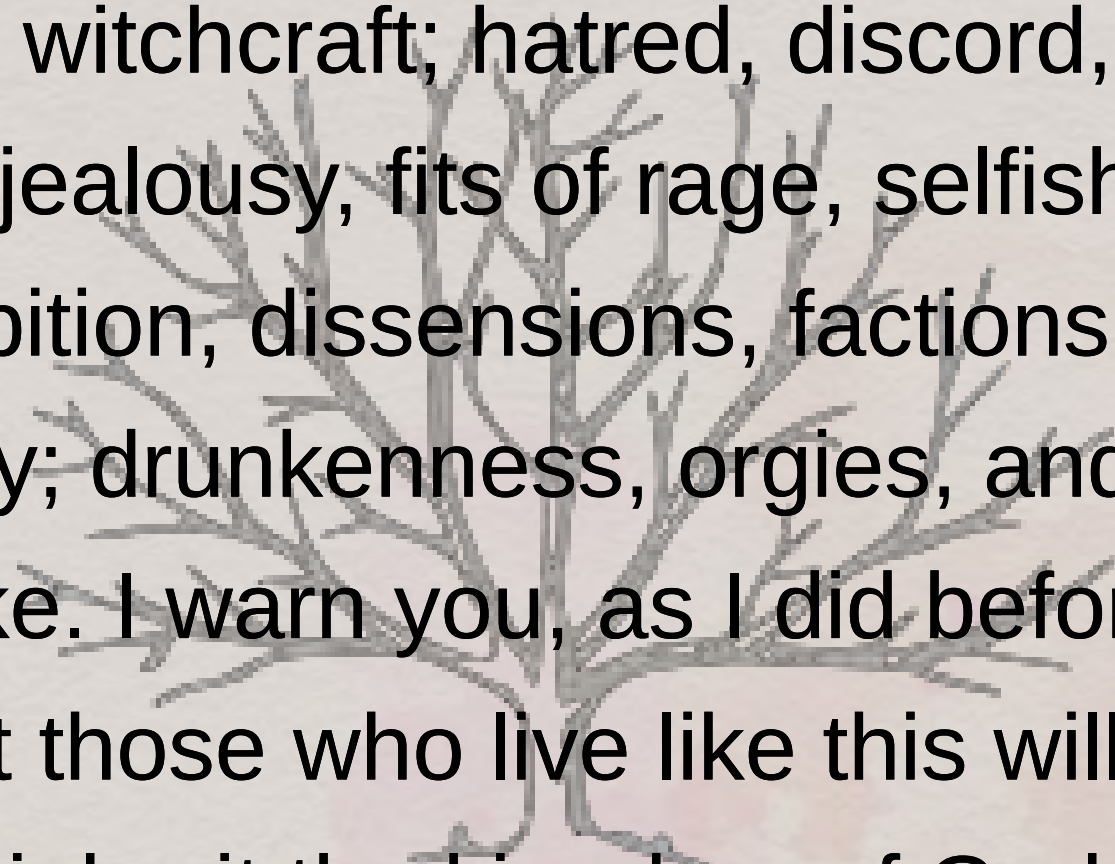
Gal 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.



Gal 5:19-21

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.



Marriage is a covenantal relationship
because God is a covenant-making
God.



10 competencies for good parenting:

1. Love and affection
2. Stress management
3. Relationship skills
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education and learning
6. Life skills
7. Behaviour management
8. Health
9. Religion
10. Safety



Source: <https://saltandlight.sg/faith/when-rebellious-kids-happen-to-praying-parents/>

CAC Loving Family Sunday - God's idea of marriage and family – The purpose of marriage

CAC Family Life Pledge



The Christian Family

is the visible pattern to the Body of Christ; the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. Children are to follow the example of Christ-like love set by their parents, and every member of the family is to love and submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.



CAC Family Life Pledge

Families are to come together as one to interact with, serve and nurture one another in love, through family worship and prayer, so that as a family, they may bear witness to Christ from generation to generation.



Pledge of a Christian Marriage

Marriage was established by God since the beginning when He created mankind. We believe in the sanctity of the marriage covenant between a man and a woman before God and expressed in mutual love and mutual support, in personal commitment, and as shared lifelong fidelity.



Biblical Role of a Husband/ Father

As a husband and/or father, I am responsible for the physical and spiritual needs of my family – to provide love, warmth, comfort, security and to exercise the gifts given to me by God, by serving and inspiring the family to live their lives to the fullest and to empower them to fulfil God's mission for them. I aim to put God first in my life, and by doing so, manage marriage, family life and parenting, with a good balance of work life, ministry involvement, and personal growth. I shall give my all to bring glory to God and be a good role model to future generations.



Biblical Role of a Wife/ Mother

As a wife, I love my husband with all my heart, and will be a good companion to him, and do all I can to create a happy and harmonious environment for the family. I shall turn to the Lord in prayer and trust in the Word for guidance for myself and my family. As a mother, I shall do my best to nurture my child(ren), and use my utmost ability to develop the heart and mind of my child(ren), guiding them to discover the unique gifts that God has given to them, and to fear God.



Biblical Role of Children

As a child I am a blessing from God to the family, church and society. I hold a child-like faith. I am willing, through learning and discipleship, in humility, trust, servanthood and obedience, to discover the truths of God's kingdom. I am the agent of God's transformation of individuals, families, communities and nations. I will honor my parents with respect and love, share in household needs and care for them in their old age.



Conclusion

Each Christian family shall accept and love one another according to the gifts granted by God and be submissive to one another out of reverence for Christ.



Reflection

1. What is the authority of the Father in our lives? How do we ensure we live under this authority in a world that is losing any sense of authority outside of the self?
2. What are the characteristics of intimacy with God? How is this intimate relationship with God nurtured through prayer? What are common factors that hinder this process?