

## **“Enemies of the Family”**

*Selected Scriptures*

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In Ephesians 5:22, Paul begins an extended discussion on family relationships. The tenor is corrective and commanding. Paul knows that healthy family living does not come “naturally” or from “common sense,” but results only from God’s supernatural directives given in Scripture, coupled with the power to live out supernatural truth by His grace. Before we look at Paul’s Biblical Correctives for godly living in the family, we first need to examine how the family got messed up in the first place...

### **1. The Family was originally created good by God.**

*“And God created humans in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them... And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was **very good**” (Genesis 1:27, 28, 31)*

*“And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed” (Genesis 2:25)*

### **2. Satan is an unrelenting enemy of the family and seeks its destruction.**

*“The serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field” (Genesis 3:1)*

*“And the LORD God said to the serpent... cursed are you...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed” (Genesis 3:14-15)*

*“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy” (John 10:10)*

*“Be on the alert! Your adversary, the Devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8)*

*“Then Satan answered the LORD,...‘But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face’ ” (Job 1:9, 11)*

### **3. The worldly culture is a hostile enemy of the family and seeks its dissolution.**

*“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:19)*

*“The world...hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil” (John 7:7)*

*“be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15)*

*“the course of this world, according to the Prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the children of disobedience...by nature children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:2-3)*

*“the whole world lies in the power of the Evil One” (1 John 5:19)*

*“the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving” (2 Corinthians 4:4)*

*“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, who forbid marriage” (1 Timothy 4:1-3; cf. 2 Timothy 3:1-7)*

*“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4)*

#### **4. Your family members can contribute to the destruction of the family if their sin is not restrained.**

*“Fathers, stop exasperating your children” (Colossians 3:21)*

*“Stop depriving one another” (1 Corinthians 7:5)*

*“The foolish woman tears her house down with her own hands” (Proverbs 14:1)*

*“A foolish son is a grief to his mother” (Proverbs 10:1)*

*“we all stumble in many ways” (James 3:2)*

#### **5. You can be an enemy of the family if you reject God’s model, roles and expectations He has established for the family.**

*“let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12)*

*“If you, then, being evil” (Matthew 7:11)*

*“in sin my mother conceived me” (Psalm 51:5)*

*“sin...indwells me...nothing good dwells in me... evil is present in me” (Romans 7:17, 18, 21)*

*“examine yourselves!” (2 Corinthians 13:5)*