

The Family: It was designed to be successful!

1. 2 people in His image
2. Sharing in a relationship which is modeled after heaven
 - a. One-flesh bond
 - b. Enduring covenant
 - c. Loving
 - d. Serving
 - e. Caring
 - f. Building together
 - g. Bearing fruit together
 - h. Engaged in the business of extending the effective rule of Christ
3. Bringing forth sons & daughters who would share in this heavenly arrangement and further extend the effective rule of Christ

Satan's trickery, man's sin, and woman's deception brought ruin

Pride
Self-promotion
Accusation
Self-protection
Mistrust
Conflict
Disruption of childbearing process
The offspring: hostility, jealousy, hatred, murder (Cain & Abel)

BUT....

These are the days of restoration!!!!

Last week: Honoring Father & Mother

A basic, clear, simple, yet profound key to success

Get that right, and I honestly believe you're on the path to success in every area

In coming weeks:

Quivers Filled with Polished Arrows, Ministry of Fathers, Ministry of Mothers, Family Order

Today: Building Marriages that Last

We will not have strong families without strong marriages

We have the opportunity to stir one another to go higher in our vision, our prayer, our e
Godly marriages

The attack:

50% of all marriages fail, ending tragically in divorce (comp to 1967 37%)

additional 10% permanently separate

75% of all couples exp some type of marital unfaithfulness

40% of today's children will see their parents div by age 8

most children will spend part of their lives in a single parent home

Baby Bombers believe that divorce is a part of marr

George Barna: "They enter a marital relationship hoping it will last forever but expecting or dissolve."

Baby boomers are 5x more likely to divorce than previous

Hardenbrook: "Today's children are the first generation in this country's history who think separation are a normal part of family life"

illus: Jason Shafer: student teaching Spring 2000 in rural Northern NY

In a class of 18 children:

Only 3 are living in a home with both a mother and a father

15 are living in a one-parent home

14 with their mom; 1 with the dad

Pray for marriages that last

Encourage one another to build marriages that last

Inspire one another by living it out – and by His grace I believe we can!

See notes: After the Wedding (from Marriage Seminar)