

A Perfect Family

Who has a perfect family? Not me. Probably not you. A married couple living joyously together, raising well-behaved, thriving children seems like a fantasy. Modern families are full of greed, lust, and disrespect. In some communities more than half the children are growing up in single-parent homes. Absent fathers leave gaping holes in their children's hearts. Violence is the norm in some neighborhoods and in some homes, too.

There has been one perfect family, but only one. When God created the first man and woman, He said they (and all creation) were "very good."¹ He told them to have children and rule the world.² Later he described their marriage like this: "They were both naked, the man and

his wife, and were not ashamed."³ Can you imagine a marriage without shame, completely open and honest?

What happened to that perfect marriage? Well, Adam and Eve sinned. They disobeyed God's command not to eat the fruit from a certain tree,⁴ and the Bible tells us that their punishment of death was passed on to their family (all of us), because we all sin.⁵

It's true, we all sin. We have all broken God's Law, and if God had to condemn Adam and Eve for breaking one command, how do you think He will judge us after all our sins? If I break only one of the Ten Commandments,⁶ I am as guilty as if I broke all of them.⁷ Think about yourself, have you ever lied? Stolen? Used God's name in vain? Committed adultery (even in your imagination)? Wanted something that someone

else owned? Most of us have broken a lot more than one commandment, so we each deserve God's judgment and punishment, which is eternal separation from Him in Hell.

God knew that true justice required a punishment. He told Eve He would make a way to forgive us through her FAMILY. God said He would overcome the devil through Eve's Seed, one of her descendants.⁸ 2000 years ago Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled that promise. Being fully God⁹ and fully man,¹⁰ Jesus lived a perfect life,¹¹ obeyed all God's commandments and then willingly became the perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world when He died on the cross.¹² Then He proved that He overcame our sins by rising from the dead.¹³

The only way to have a perfect relationship is to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, the

Son of God, who is continually thinking about you.¹⁴ Then your relationship with your heavenly Father will empower you to have genuine relationships with your imperfect earthly family, with Christ as your example.¹⁵

Here is a simple way to act on what you believe: Tell someone else that you believe with all your heart that:

1. Jesus is the Son of God.¹⁶
2. You are a sinner who needs to turn from your sin.¹⁷
3. Jesus' death was sufficient punishment to pay the penalty for your sin.¹⁸
4. God raised Him back to life from death to prove that you are forgiven.¹⁹
5. This faith in God is now the motivation for all your actions.²⁰

If you want more information about how God created families, visit www.familiesfromthebeginning.org.

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Scriptures referred to noted by small numbers:

- 1) Genesis 1:31; 2) Genesis 1:28;
- 3) Genesis 2:25; 4) Genesis 3:6, 12;
- 5) Romans 5:12; 6) Exodus 20:2-17;
- 7) James 2:10; 8) Genesis 3:15;
- 9) Colossians 2:9; 10) Romans 5:15;
- 11) Hebrews 4:15; 12) Colossians 1:19-20;
- 13) Romans 4:25; 14) Hebrews 7:25;
- 15) Ephesians 5:20 – 6:4; 16) Acts 8:37, 1 John 4:15; 17) Romans 3:1-12, 23;
- 18) Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:2;
- 19) Romans 10:9-10, Acts 17:30-31;
- 20) Galatians 2:20, Philipians 2:13.