



# Four cornerstones for a stable family

How can Malawi be transformed? What would be one of the most important worldviews to understand in order to be successful? Look at the concepts of the bible and how the West was transformed it in history.

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Introduction how to become successful in building a prosperous nation

## Content

<b><i>Abstract</i></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><i>Introduction</i></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>The foundation for stable families</i></b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.1 The original design of families</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.2 The structure of families</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1.3 The task of families</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>1.4 What is holding families together?</b>	<b>15</b>
<b><i>Conclusion</i></b>	<b>16</b>

## Abstract

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The West was stronger than the rest of the world because its understanding of family fitted in better to reality than anything else.

The Bible provided a structure for families. It brought security and stability. Children grow up in a secure environment. Christianity not only brought the structure of a family, it also helped through the cross; The cross of Jesus Christ helped families to stand together even if people do not do it by themselves.

Christianity not only gave rules for families, but also helps people to follow those rules. Christianity could do what other philosophies and religions could not. And it brought strong stables families, which are the foundation for a healthy crowing nation.

But families are now under a big attack. People think that the old understanding of families is no longer relevant for today. They want to abolish the common understanding of families. What made the West strong became the enemy of today?

The West has carried this worldview all over the world. International organisations support same-sex marriage wherever they can. Countries that do not accept it are blacklisted. People who support it are attacked. Families are in a critical state today.

The problem is not the political agenda. The big problem is the influence of Christians, which is constantly increasing. The fear of God has almost disappeared from our society. The consequences are now becoming apparent.

The way to bring the world back to the understanding what a family is, is to teach the Christian faith. The fear of God must come back into our institutions.

Only the revelation of God can give us a clear picture of how a family should function according to the old understanding. What is the purpose of families?

## Introduction

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Today, the common view in the West is that family can be between a man and a man or a woman and a woman. It is also no longer clear who is a man and how a woman is. People can decide for themselves which gender they are. Some confess neither gender or both or some other variation.

Most countries today have a divorce rate of more than 50%. Many people no longer marry. Most of the couples don't want to have more than two children or even less. Families get smaller and smaller every year. The international establishment undermines the historical understanding of family wherever they can.

The understanding of what a family is has been lost in the World especially in the West in the last 50 years. The Christian heritage is lost. The definition that was clear for 1000 years is no longer.

Families have also been under attack in non-Christian nations for years. Fathers have many children with different wives and leave them alone. Children have to grow up on the streets. Other fathers spend all the money for alcohol. They do not care for their families and their children. The countries will end up in poverty. This image has become so common in many of these nations.

Even it seems obviously that the Christian influenced nations called Western Nations made a difference to rest of the world. But the establishment do not believe that it has something to do with the view on families.

A lot of developing nation look to the West and learn from them. But are they able to help them? When they deny what make them strong how should they help the others. The West still have the blessings from the forefather but for how long?

Once I saw a commercial where the grandpa got a tablet and used it to cut the vegetables. At the end he puts it into the dishwasher. The grandchild was shocked when she saw what the grandpa did with the tablet. He used it as a chopping board for \$2. But it was worth much more and would have had a lot of potential.

It's probably a good analogy for marriages. People use marriage the way they think it is. But they don't understand the original design and so they miss out on all the possibilities. They don't see the value and potential and use it much below what it is worth. They do not understand when you use it in a right way it is the foundation of a healthy stable nation.

To understand the role of families, people need to find out what the original design for families is. What is the purpose of families and how were they created?

The biggest problem is often that people no longer know where everything comes from. They understand the whole complex society, but they don't understand the basis of the human being. They deny the Creator and decide for themselves how they want to use his creation.

For this, we need to find out the Creator's point of view. Therefore, we have to go back to the original letter of the Creator and explore what He wrote there.

People can probably find out many details in life. But they never find out the purpose and the potential of families without asking the Creator.

## The foundation for stable families

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### 1.1 The original design of families

Nobody knows why the cake is on the table. People can speculate and scientists can explore all the ingredients. But why the cake is there, what its purpose is, people cannot find out without asking Aunt Martha, the baker of the cake. To ask why she baked the cake?

Therefore, we have to go back to the original designer to ask him about the real purpose of families.

## **The term family**

First of all, it is important to note that the term family does not come from the Bible. It is often used in various translations, but family is a 15th century definition.

Its root is in the Latin word *famulus*, "servant". The first meaning in English was close to our modern word "household" - a group of individuals living under one roof with blood relatives and servants.

The Greek word used in the Bible is "*oikos*", which means "my house". At the time of the Bible, family was not seen as we understand it today.

It was a social community with blood relatives and servants who cared for each other. Families had businesses and run the economy. It was much broader than our understanding today.

We understand that today a family consists of parents and children. But back then it was much more. The fact that today the understanding is different is not inhumane. It is not generally against the Bible. I also think that we don't need to go back to the old ideas, but we need to understand the basics of a family.

For simplify we focus here only on the today understanding of family.

Men and women chose each other and became one blood. It was defined by God in Genesis 2. It was the Creator's idea that this should be the smallest unit in a society that is called family today.

## **The character of order**

Some will ask today whether the historical understanding of the structure of a family is still relevant today. I think it is really important to first understand the need for structure before we go into the form of a family.

The universe needs limits. Gravity is an absolute law of nature. You could negotiate with God about whether it should change. But God had to consider something when he created it. Without natural laws, the earth could not exist. All human beings would drift off into space.

Why are we humans sure that this will never happen? It is because the Creator of the laws has arranged it that way. He set the planets in their orbits and created the laws of nature. And we can trust that they will never change.

Of course, I would like to be able to fly under my own power - but unfortunately that is not possible. I am bound by the law of gravity. That limits me, but it also allows me to go out into the street or to pick fruit from the trees.

When a man jumps out of an aeroplane, he cannot decide whether he falls or not. He is forced to obey the natural law. Man must obey the laws of nature. He has no choice.

A road has guard rails and centre lines. They limit the person. He cannot just do what he wants when he is driving. But the crash barriers and the centre line protect the human being. Imagine a truck coming towards me on my side of the road. There would be a collision and the stronger would win (it is clear - the truck). I am glad to know that the oncoming trucks are not allowed to drive on my side of the road.

A crash barrier stops me if I lose control. The laws of the road are narrow, but they are there to protect me. Laws are there to protect people. They create order and security in life.

Man can choose to eat poison mushroom, but the consequences are given. Eating from the poison one brings death.

It is the same with families. It is God's product. He chose it that life is possible. In this order that society is stable, free and will grow. When people do not obey it, society is no more stable free and is not growing in a healthy way.

If people work too much for years and do not take care of their families, there will be bad consequences. People can get burnt out and get divorced. They lose their jobs and their families. In the end, they may end up on the street, without protection, safety and a job. These consequences may not show up until years later.

Because people do not see quickly the bad consequences, they start to ignore it. Therefore, they do no longer believe in the creation order and start to abolish what was clear for 1000 of years.

Every society needs guidelines and laws. This brings security, stability and identity. Now, this security is to be in danger.

What has been absolutely clear for millennia is suddenly uncertain. People are increasingly losing their orientation and their identity. They stagger around with the constant question in their heads of what is true or false.

### **Why God created the tree of good and evil in his garden?**

People are made for community in unity. They must favour one another, otherwise they are not able to live together. To live in the image of God, to live in harmony as God did, they must submit to each other and learn to obey. But people decide not to obey and do what they want. They want to decide what is good and what is evil. But this did not end in a good way, as most of us know.

Not accepting boundaries drives people into isolation. People lose the understanding of community and solidarity. When man leaves the structures that give him what he needs. The end result is loneliness and separation. Without order, the human being is lost. Accepting boundaries first makes community possible. Laws are necessary for an orderly life to be possible. The Creator determines the laws.

That is why he planted the tree of good and evil in the garden. It was a symbol of obedience. It showed the attitude of the people. Do they accept the Creator and His laws or do they want to decide for themselves what is right and wrong? They chose the second, but the consequences were enormous.

Everyone who creates will create laws, otherwise there is no creation. The laws are for the protection of his creation. He who creates is the Lawgiver and he determines what he has created. Those who reject the laws also reject the Creator and are unable to live in this harmony. They deny being like in the image of God. But God had a plan to solve the problem.

### **The order of families**

Martin Luther<sup>1</sup> also had a great influence on the understanding of what a family is. Man and woman are equal, both made in the image of God. Luther said, "You learn more from Christ by being married and bringing up children than in a whole life in a monastery. Therefore, men should marry instead of trying to please God through abstinence. Luther abolished the monasteries and dismissed the nuns and monks. They went home and began to marry.

Luther believed that the Bible teaches that man and woman are made in the image of God. When a man makes a covenant with a woman, they represent the image of God more than

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther 1483 - 1546 was a German professor of theology, priest, author, composer, Augustinian monk, and a seminal figure in the Reformation. He rejected several teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church; in particular. Luther became the father of the reformation and separated from the Catholic Church.

anything else. The family became the institution that transformed man into the ideal image of God. In the original creation of man.

The best way to build a society is to find out how the Creator designed it. When a man enters into a covenant with a woman, the divine becomes visible on earth. When marriages are divorced, it is the greatest pain for Christianity. They tear God apart. The image of God was upset. In the whole history, society was never closer to God than with strong, healthy families. That is why marriages are the most valuable thing in a society for Christians. They defend this view to this day, often with all means.

God created human beings as female and male. God is neither female nor male. He has no gender. He chose to divide Himself as male and female. Now when two men enter into marriage, it is not the same. For they do not represent the fullness of God. It is not the original plan of the Creator. That is a misinterpretation and that is why God forbids it. A family is a creation concept, a given order. It cannot be described by creation itself. The clay cannot decide what the potter will do.

This is the reason why Christians oppose the change in the understanding of the family. It is not directed against those who think differently. But against their understanding of perfection.

The mainstream in the West no longer believes in the order of creation. But not only the family is in danger, but also the question of what is a girl and what is a boy. The Western professor wants to know everything. But they deny the Creator: and therefore, they are ignorant of the obviously simplest thing in life, which every child knows. The loss of God will destroy the order of creation and in the end, there is nothing true or false. Everything is just possible. But what are the consequences of this?

Without accepting the Creator and this given order, people will never realise the importance of marriage between a man and a woman as the only ideal.

### **Why the West became so strong?**

The world is adopting the Western civilisation. But is this really clever? What is the West showing to the world?

Historians claim that the success from the West comes from middle-class families. Families best represent the image of the Creator, and that is why the world works best. The West built strong families and was far superior to the Ottoman Empire throughout the Middle Ages.

When Christianity in Europe lost its roots in the 19th and 20th centuries, America overtook Europe? America has kept it until today. Europe celebrates adulterous love. Nobody cares when a president is divorced. In America, no president is elected if he or she cannot control the marriage. But a president in Europe can travel around with his mistress. Today it is even heroic for people to have lovers everywhere.

The threat to the West is not terrorism. What destroys the West is the abolition of values and its historical foundations. The threat is what wants to destroy what has made the West strong.

But the whole world is still looking at the West and taking everything, it teaches. The non-West is being transformed by this view. That's why it's so important to understand this movement, even if you don't live in the West.

Family is not a contract, but an alliance. A family is built on a spiritual foundation and is not simply held together by a contract or structure. If the West loses Christianity, it will also lose families. If you take away the foundation of a house, the house will fall.

The question remains whether Western society can have a future without families? But often the churches no longer represent the Christian view of the family. It seems that the family no longer has a strong advocate.

Just like Friedrich Engels 1848<sup>2</sup> quoted. "The most important condition for the realisation of socialism is the abolition of the historical family. For them, every step towards the destruction of families was a step forward in history.

Karl Marx<sup>3</sup> published "The Holy Family" in 1845. The "Holy Family" preaches the revolt against state, church, family, laws, religion and property. The best future has the most radical and strongest communist. The new holy family. The family is no longer man and woman with children. The new family is the global communist community. This is true humanism and brings freedom and justice.

Probably the philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau<sup>4</sup> was one of the starting forces of this movement. He believed that evil came from hierarchies and authorities. People have to be free from all authorities then they will have a perfect society. Even fathers should hierarchical not stand over their children. He himself gave his children to an orphanage. They should grow up independently from the parents. He became the father of antiauthority education and is still a foundation for pedagogic educations today. His ideas never worked out. He denied God as giver of order. Order and sin became the enemy of society. He abolished Christianity. He wanted to build up a free society but it ended in the chaos of the French Revolution 1789<sup>5</sup>.

We had seen many different movements in the West in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Feminism or free sexual movement. Being able to choose same-sex marriages and the choice of one's own sex are normal today. A child should be able to choose whether it wants to be a boy or a girl. The old system of hierarchy became more and more the enemy of the world. Equal rights became the foundation of humanity. National and international laws are constantly being adapted. Even if the homosexual community is below 2%, it has made the whole society accept it. They accept it because the philosophy of all are equal has spread throughout the world. But not because they want to practise it. It sounds so human to want everyone to be treated equally. When everyone has the same rights.

Every individual has rights before the state and ultimately before the international community. A small federal institution such as the family will hinder this equality and must for the new elites be abolished. Absolute moral values can no longer be represented. Otherwise, people will become racists.

Everything that gives the impression of being predestined by the Creator must be abolished from the establishment of the world. The new world is a world without an order and hierarchy. Without right and wrong. Just everything is possible but nothing true anymore.

The Church has often generously embraced it. They have not realised that the movement has undermined the foundations of the Church, and has enticed them into the trap with flattering words. It seems that in the 20th century families are facing hard times.

Today, these ideas are constantly influenced by education and social media. It has gone so far that it is no longer allowed to represent a view of a family, of man and woman, in public. People who do so are called racists and extremists. Those who created Western culture are now considered enemies of society.

In the last 200 years a strong movement emerged wanting to abolish hierarchy and traditional families. More and more the hierarchies became the supposed enemy of the West.

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<sup>2</sup> Friedrich Engels 1820 –1895, was a German philosopher, economist, historian, political theorist and revolutionary socialist and co-writer of the communist manifesto 1848

<sup>3</sup> Karl Heinrich Marx 1818 1883, was a German philosopher, economist, historian, sociologist, political theorist, journalist and socialist revolutionary

<sup>4</sup> Jean-Jacques Rousseau 1712 -1778 was a Genevan philosopher, writer, and composer. His political philosophy influenced the progress of the Enlightenment throughout Europe, as well as aspects of the French Revolution and the development of modern political, economic, and educational thought

<sup>5</sup> The French Revolution was a period of fundamental political and societal change in France 1789 - 1799.

For a Christian, the hierarchy is not necessarily a problem. The problem is the evil in people's hearts. Just because families have fallen apart and people don't have the strength to keep them together doesn't mean it's wrong. So how then can family function.

Often the churches cannot really help. They often cannot give an alternative to the common view in the world.

Today people decide, if they feel good, then it is truth. Churches often offer big and creative services. People have great experiences and it makes people feel good. If people think that feeling is the guarantee of truth, then that is a problem. Truth is not based on people's feeling. It is based on the creator. Christians believe in the Creator because they are convinced of Him.

When there would be no more God, there is no more truth. When there is no more truth, there are no more morals or values. Everything can be true or false. It is true or false because people feel it. If we want to stay up against the mainstream gender movement, we must first convince people about God. Unless they turn to Him and start believing instead of just feeling, the battle cannot be won.

What made the West strong, is now under attack? It is time to rethink and remember the history to understand the importance of families.

Why does Africa want to adapt the Western Culture? The facade of the West is great but behind it is empty. My concern is that Africa is trapping in the same mistake.

## **1.2 The structure of families**

If we believe in the creator, we have to ask how now a family should function. Therefore, the creator gave us an instruction. Let us see what is in it.

Let us first summarise some scripture.

### **Love the foundation of families**

The Bible says that God is Love. If God is and has always been Love, he could not have been on his own before creation. God cannot claim to love if he was alone. Love can only be expressed when two or more people come together. Most Church Fathers believed that God was not alone. He lived as a Trinity. All three - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - were not created. Love existed before creation. God could love and had fellowship because he was not alone even before creation.

The Hebrew word in Genesis 1:1 for God is "Elohim". "Elohim" is God the Creator but always used in plural. Moreover, in Genesis 1:26 the Bible says "let us make man". The Bible itself shows us that God was not alone before creation.

The New Testament revealed that Jesus existed before creation. (Joh 1:1-10, Col 1:16). Jesus is God and he was not created. It was Jesus who created the world and sustain it. Also, in Genesis 1:2 the spirit of God was above the surface of the water.

The Bible itself only mentions the Trinity once: in Matthew 28:19. It is probably not a very strong scientific argument. But from a philosophical point of view, it makes sense to state that the Creator was not alone and to claim that he was three in one. Therefore, the Church Fathers were right. The Creator was not alone.

The Creator has always lived relationally within the Trinity before creation.

Islam vehemently contradicts Trinity. In the Muslim view, Allah has always existed. He was not created. But he was alone. He could not love and had no relationship, because he was alone. Therefore, the God of the Muslims cannot be a relational God. However, the biblical God is a loving, relational, personal God who stands in strong contrast to the God of the Muslims. He could love and communicate. He could have relationship and could live together with others in perfect harmony.



People may have an identity crisis. They want to recover their identity by looking into themselves. But they cannot find it. Would it not be better to look to the Creator because he made us in his image? God is the Trinity. He has never been alone and his identity is in the Trinity. There is no identity in singularity. It does not exist. Identity is therefore relational. Therefore, people will not find their identity if they look only within themselves. They can find it in relationship to God and in their community.

God is unity in diversity: Community and the individual are important. It is not just the individual that is important as Westerners often think. The secret of the world is unity in diversity and this is the foundation of personality. The creator now decided that the best system for people is when they can live in unity together. A family were man and woman decide to stay together as long they are. The foundation of families is conditional love. It can only be the case if this perfect harmony, the image of God, as women and men, stay together, whatever may happen. This foundation makes a family strong and gives security to the woman, the man and the children. Children can only understand this unconditional love of God when they experience it in the real world.

### **Families need a hierarchy**

Was God male or female? Who is more divine? The Creator made men and women in his image (Gen 1:27). Therefore, he has no gender. He is both male and female. A man is not godlier or has more wisdom than a woman even though many cultures still believe that today. The Creator has no gender. Therefore, men and women are equally valuable. None of them is godlier than the other.

This concept became the foundation of the Judeo-Christian understanding of society. God is female and male and therefore both have the same value but not the same role.

God consists of three persons in one and they all have three different destinies. The Father commands and the son obeys. The Son can do nothing by himself, but only what he sees his father doing<sup>6</sup>. He willingly went to the cross. The Father didn't force him. The Son gave his life for the people. He wept and was in fear. In the flesh, he didn't like doing it but he did it in the spirit. He overcame nature through the spirit. The Father commanded and the Son obeyed because of his character and his destiny. They both had different roles but they are both have the same value.

There was no difference in value between the one who commanded and the one who obeyed. They are both God. Thus, there has always been a hierarchy within the Trinity, even before creation. Therefore, order and hierarchy were not created: they have always been in God.

Position has nothing to do with value. A child is not less valuable than its parents; it simply has a different position. A man is not more important or more valuable because he is the boss.

Often, when people have problems, they leave order because they think hierarchy is the problem. But this does not solve the problem. Often, the problem is not order but the lack of understanding as to how people can live in subordination to one another.

Family is a spiritual concept and when people lose the fear of God this structure will crumble too. The idea that there is no God has spread through philosophy, art and education to all areas of society. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels were probably the greatest pioneers of this atheistic reform.

The Ten Commandments say: "You shall honour your father and your mother<sup>7</sup>". Children are no less than parents if they are to honour them. It is the created order that has made it

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<sup>6</sup> Jn 5.19

<sup>7</sup> Deuteronomy 5.24

possible for a society to grow. But people have a tendency to ignore it, which has been the challenge from the beginning.

In the New Testament, Paul's advice is even stronger. He says that children should obey their parents<sup>8</sup>. They should not only honour them, but obey them. Every child can be so happy when they have parents who discipline them. Also, Proverbs says that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of God<sup>9</sup>.

That the world can function, God has placed authorities over people. Parents over children so that they can become wise under their parents.

It is said: Listen to your mother and father, and you will have a good life<sup>10</sup>.

Obedying is an important tool to be transformed into the image of the original design. Into the image of the Creator Himself. Just as God did in his Trinity. Probably it is the best character training to be transformed. But society teaches otherwise. People want to be independent. Everyone wants to decide for themselves what is good or bad.

Paul in the tenth New Testament also instructs us that the father is the man of the family<sup>11</sup>. Just as Jesus is the head of the church, the father is the head of the family. He says that the wife is to submit to her husband and the husband is to love his wife. He is to love her as Jesus loved his church and gave his life for her.

Men and women are both created in the image of God. They have the same value, but not the same role. The man is the head of the family, but he has no more value than his wife. The woman is the helper. But both are obliged to rule and govern the world. The man can debate and argue with the woman. He has no more wisdom. The man is the boss, but a boss like Jesus who is willing to serve and die for the woman.

It is the same as in the Trinity. The Son subordinates himself to the Father. It is not the question of who is better. The question would be finding out the creator order. God had to choose someone, but he couldn't find the perfect one. Because there is no such person. So, his only option is to choose one of us sinners to complete his work.

So, God choose the man for that. He could probably choose the woman too, but then the man would complain. It probably wouldn't be any better. The fact is that he has to choose because he wants his creation to grow and establish itself. Having a hierarchy is not just there because the person in charge has all the power. Authority is given because it is the order of creation.

Subordination has nothing to do with values. Women too can be smarter, faster and better. But that is not the question. The question is who is the order that can work best. It is not the question of who is better.

Adam and Eve were seduced by those indirect words of the serpent, by that inner voice. It was not only the woman; the man stood by. After all, he later accepted her and also ate from it. That is, both are guilty - but Adam was responsible. If no one is responsible, then the blame game would continue as it did with Adam and Eve.

It is never a question of guilt. It is a question of responsibility. Who is responsible here? Jesus was responsible, but not guilty. But he was the leader because he took his responsibility and did not blame the guilty. We should act like that.

Obedying is an important tool to be transformed into the image of the original design. Into the image of the Creator Himself. Just as God did in his Trinity. Probably it is the best character

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<sup>8</sup> Eph 6.1-4

<sup>9</sup> Proverb 1.5

<sup>10</sup> Proverbs 1.8

<sup>11</sup> Ephians 5.22-33

training to be transformed. But society teaches otherwise. People want to be independent. Everyone wants to decide for themselves what is good or bad.

God also gave a structure like a natural law that his creation can multiply and increase. But because humans are fallen beings, they need a law to help them understand the order of creation. Most of the media and culture remains against this order. That is why it is really hard to follow it. It is an uphill battle.

Also, many people don't believe it's possible to hold this regulation. They come to the conclusion that it is better to ignore it or abolish it.

## 1.3 The task of families

### The purpose of life

Parents themselves need to understand the meaning of life. They must understand that they are made for a higher purpose than themselves. They are born to serve and be a blessing to others. They are not there just to win. They have to teach their children the most important thing in life. But they don't have to teach them with words alone. They have to do it with their own actions.

But often parents are so busy with their business. Pastors are so busy with their projects. People are so busy trying to win the prize and come first. Children will see that and react to it.

There are two reactions to it. The first is that they will do the same. They will struggle through life to get the first position. They will become parents who will have almost no time for their children. They will run to get the prize. It's about me, my, myself and I. People from this category will get burnout or often can no longer live with their spouse. They will run for the end of their life and ask, what have I changed. What have I invested in this generation? Did I teach them the most important things in life? Will what I started last and endure? Have I taught them the meaning of life?

The other reaction would be that children rebel against a life without meaning. They know that there will be more than just running through life. There will be more than winning the best for themselves. They will rebel and stand up against the establishment. They don't want to become like their parents. They just rebel against the culture but have no alternative. They abolish the structure and find themselves in even more emptiness.

The meaning of life is not to win and be better than others. The meaning of life is to be a servant and understand that we are made for a higher purpose than just about ourselves.

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who rule over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, the greatest among you shall become as the youngest, and the chief as one who serves. For who is greater, he who reclines at table or he who serves? Is it not he who lives down at table? But I am among you as the one who serves<sup>12</sup>.

This is a good illustration of what the meaning of life is. People who don't know God call themselves kings and want to rule and be honored. Christians should be different. The one who wants to be first, should serve.

The secular worldview says that the one who is a servant is less. But Jesus was the servant for all and he became a King. A biblical Christian worldview stands against what the world keeps telling us.

The challenge is that the secular world is constantly telling us the opposite in movies, in advertising, in universities and in corporations. If you want to be happy, look at yourself first. You have to be first that you win and get the job. You have to fight that you achieve something.

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<sup>12</sup> Luk 22.24-26

The leader is the one who has power. People have to increase their income. They have to fight for their job. If they are not good enough, they are kicked out.

Jesus' teaching is different. Because people are created that way; the highest fulfilment is to serve others. People will be satisfied and fulfilled if they walk in the way of the Creator.

It is a constant war in people's minds. A war of worldviews. It is not just a war of morals or feelings. It is a war in our minds. Evil wants to keep us blind so that we cannot see what is good and makes people happy.

If people would follow the words of Jesus, they would become content, confident and fulfilled. They would go to bed at night saying it was a good day. If they started serving instead of conquering others, they would become fulfilled.

Families need to live this out. First of all, parents have to show it to their children. If they want to be parents, they have to serve their children. They should not be there all the time just for their own business. It is not meant that children dictate parents, which is often the case. Parents do not have to please their children, but they have to teach them what is most important in the world.

They have to discipline them, even if they don't like it. But if parents take time for their children, then children will see that. They will listen, because parents listened first. They will also become servants if they see that in their parents. They will find the meaning of life when parents have understood it.

### **Increase and multiply**

In the beginning God said: "Be fruitful and multiply ". Families are responsible of having children, multiplying in numbers and investing in the next generation. But this too seems to be declining: In the Western World, the birth rate is much lower than where it should be so that the community does not die out.

Often people believe that their income cannot supply for a person more. They don't believe in God. They just orient themselves according to the resources in the world. Perhaps. Instead of having children they abort them out of economical reason or because their carer. In Europe the birth rate is so low that they will die out.

The older people increase in percentage to the young. But who is providing and taking care of them? The Western social work is on its limits. Every year less of young people have to pay a pension for the growing older population. The care system is on an edge because they do not have enough young people which can take care of the older once.

China is a fast-growing economy. But how the future would look like? With their one child policy from the eighties they face the same problem as the west. A nation cannot survive when it doesn't go in the creation order. The West and China will face a huge problem. Because of losing God they lose the hope that it will be enough for all. They wanted to solve the problem by themselves. But now they have to face a huge problem.

Some people proclaim that it will be a change in the world where probably once Europe will seek refuge in Africa. Do not the people have to rethink?

The purpose of a family is to multiply. Like the purpose of agriculture is to let the fruits grow and multiply. The purpose for business is to produce more to bless people and provide them. The purpose is to multiply and grow. The purpose is for the whole creation to multiply and grow. A sportsman has the goal to grow. The students want to increase their knowledge and wisdom. So the family's purpose is to multiply.

The fruits can only grow and increase if the condition of growing is right. Exactly the same is in a family. The multiplication can happen if the condition has to be right. Children need security and a warm atmosphere to be able to learn and grow.

The creator set the law of photovoltaic in nature. This condition is important to renew the air. People cannot deny it or say I don't believe in it. It is an obviously visible circumstance. The same in families. The creator created it in a certain way that his creation can grow.

When people understand now the creation order they understand the purpose of family. Families are the vessel that God chooses to bring multiplication to the world.

### **Teach the next generation**

A key for family is to reflect God to the next generation. To teach them disciple them and learn them to act like Jesus did.

This requires of course first that parents understand God and follow him. To be parents is so hard because everything that they say will be tested and criticized. But they never should give up to go on in their teaching and discipling.

Parents have to teach their children but also the children teach the parents. Parents have to learn how to communicate in a good way. Through it they understand more about what is real and will function and what not.

To teach your own children is often the most difficult thing. But God showed it again and again that this is the way how grows can work<sup>13</sup>. There is only one thing more difficult than that and this is teaching yourself. Before parents can teach themselves, they cannot teach their children. And this is often the hardest thing to do. To fulfil the task that the creator gave us we also have to teach ourselves and have to stop to do things that are not good.

When children see it their parents they will follow. Or better to say they will follow what they see. But this is not always good. Therefore, be parents require an authentic moral life first.

Even though all parents are sinners and not perfect, they are the only option. So, it is much better to have imperfect parents than to have no parents. Often parents think they are the best or think they want to be the best. But that is often exactly the opposite of good. Because children have to learn that life is not perfect. Parents who are not perfect but are authentic have a much greater influence on their children than parents who play a role that cannot be imitated.

Families are therefore the best vessel to learn to grow in the original design. To be disciplined and learn even as parents to walk in the way of God.

### **Children have to learn to become interdependent**

One of the biggest fulfillments in life is to find out why we are original made. Parents have to teach children entrepreneurship. Learn to be able to take care for yourself. Only when people are stay on this level, they can take care of others. They can take care later for their children. They are able to stand in a healthy partnership. In an interdependent relationship in team where we need one another. A good book is from Steven Covey the seven-effective way of a leader.

The parents have to teach them sustainability. What they do is not just for themselves. They have to do it for the next generations. The builder of a cathedral had to make sure that 10 generation after him they will finish the church. They still will have the same vision and fulfil the original design. The parents have to live this principle out. They are made for a higher purpose than just themselves. They are building on a long-term vision. Something that will endure of the next generations.

Parents who just run around to complete their task and their business will not be able to teach is to their children. Parents which just enjoy life in all the pleasure will not teach the children to grow. Children have to learn to become an entrepreneur and not just a consumer. Somebody who is able to invest and multiply.

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<sup>13</sup> Deut 5.6

## **Children have to learn in a not perfect world**

One of the most important things to teach the next generation is that they understand that the world is not perfect. Parents try to give their children everything and want to protect them from everything bad. They had reality and don't want the children to see it. They don't talk about challenges in their marriage and about their life. But what do the children learn in return. They start to believe that the world has to be perfect. But at some point, they are confronted with reality.

They start a job and find out that there are many conflicts and problems they face. The young generation has a tendency to stay on top of the mountain but not see the way up. Life is a tension between a perfect world and suffering reality. The mandate to parents is to teach their children to become people who overcome problems. People who do not give up when problems come. People who are able to forgive themselves and others. To get up and move on.

The D-Day was the day as America saved Europe. 1000 Americans lost their life just to help Europe. President Roosevelt was convinced that America is called by God to help the world that not the philosophy from Germany will destroy the whole world. But at least Europe. But why the soldiers were ready to sacrifice their life to it. Americans Generals were able to give a vision. They said that we are not made just to win our game. We are made for a higher purpose. The higher purpose is saving the world from the enemies. We risk now the life. But if we not do it then Millions will die. We are made for a higher purpose. The soldiers were touched in their hearts and wanted to be part of it. The soldiers wanted to go and felt mustered if they not could go. The Americans saved Europe and the world with there suffering. When they didn't do it. Europe would probably be destroyed. The purpose of life is to give your life for a higher purpose then just yourselves. It brings the highest fulfillment and satisfaction what people every can receive.

But the world around us is different. They tell our children that fulfillment is having all the goods and experience everything. Have a life without problems. But actually, people are made to solve problems. People are not cowering which eating grass and just look for a fresh field. They do not solve problems. A dog is not turning on the light when he entering a room. He cannot see something but he just waits until man turn on the light. Man is created to solve the problem and bring light in a dark room.

That is probably the most important thing parents can teach their children.

## **Families have to set up values**

Families need values that they can pass on to the children. Children need to learn that they have to abide by them. Without values, there is no right or wrong behavior. Before they can behave properly, they have to know the values. They cannot just listen to what their feelings tell them. Feelings can lie to them.

Western culture is very focused on what children want. They talk about children's rights and about self-education.

But the most important thing you learn in life is obedience, character and morality. All that doesn't sound so great to children. That's why parents need to create values and teach them to their children.

A family is a training ground for life. Actually, the reunion for life. It cannot be replaced by the university or the churches. The growth process of children and parents can never be better than in the training field of a family.

The purpose of families is to multiply by creating the best environment in which the fruits can grow. They have to create the atmosphere and teach the children to follow the right path in a right attitude.

But first the parents have to understand the right way. They must first change their mind and belief system according to the ideas of the Creator.

## 1.4 What is holding families together?

People do not have enough strength and love to keep this ideal community together. That is why Moses allowed the Jews to divorce under different circumstances. Jesus explained that this is because people's hearts are evil. He did not promote divorce, but he was aware that it was impossible for human beings. He saw that people are not able to love each other. But he created a way that made it possible.

### **By grace people are forgiven**

History has shown that people are not all good. They mostly look after themselves and their interests. This always ends badly and is frustrating. Evil was always in people and it was hardly possible to deal with it. I think it is no different today.

The Bible does not only preach the innovative and royal in man. It also preaches that man is a sinner. Man is evil and needs redemption. The Christians found the lost key to solve this deep human problem. Through grace in Jesus Christ, man receives a pure heart. He takes away what man alone could never do.

This view changed society. Christians taught that the cross can do what man cannot do in his own strength. They applied this worldview in their daily lives. The forgiveness of the cross helped them in all situations. When people could not do the right thing themselves, they knew that the cross could help them. Because they did not only look at their limitations, they were able to do things that were not possible for people. They believed that their hearts could be changed

People could change, even if the situation seemed hopeless. They believed that through Jesus Christ broken relationships could be restored and people could find back together. Parties that had been quarrelling found each other.

They believed that man needed this renewal of hearts. What other religions could never do; Christianity could. Of course, not everyone believed it. Many did not act with a renewed heart. But Christian-based society was better able to keep families together and that is what makes the West strong.

It was the cross. When people look not at themselves but at God. They see the big picture and find the meaning of life. They are reminded that the purpose is. That life is not perfect and we are in tension. The devil tries to break us apart, but Jesus wants to heal it. Even if it takes time, it will be the goal. Therefore, this people never gave up and could hold on hope. There is hope for you too.

### **The cross has taken away all shame**

The western world is a culture of guilt. If they do something wrong, they are guilty. They have to put it right. Then they are free again. In a shame-based culture it is different. In such a culture, paying back does not solve the problem. Because the real problem is that they still feel ashamed. This shame remains, even if the debt has been repaid.

In the Western world, it meant greatness if people could stand by their mistakes. In big companies, only people who have already made mistakes are hired. If they would hire someone who claims to be perfect and has never failed, they could assume that this person cannot admit mistakes or really has no experience. Such a person cannot take much responsibility. It would be unwise to hire such people. Greatness is making mistakes, standing by them, getting up and not making them again. People will learn from their mistakes.

In a culture of shame, admitting mistakes means showing weakness. If you do that, you are not a good leader. In such a culture, it is about not being ashamed and not letting anyone know that you have made a mistake.

In the West, Christians followed the great example of Jesus. He went to the cross, humbled himself and was punished like a criminal. He took all the shame upon himself. He overcame

the shame by his perfection and was able to kill this great enemy. Taking the shame upon himself was the act of a hero. It is heroic to stand by mistakes and that is what distinguishes the West from other cultures.

I heard a story that someone was sent home by the military when he fell asleep during the night watch. The commander was asked if that wasn't a bit harsh. To send a person home just because of those mistakes. To destroy his whole career. The commander explained that this was not because he had fallen asleep, but because he could not stand by his mistakes.

What Jesus did in the Western world cannot be applied in a non-Christian society. Jesus was able to take away the shame by dying on the cross and setting Christians free. He was not ashamed and could take the shame upon himself. The people who have received what Jesus did are free. The West was freed from shame, which no other religion could do.

The secular world claims that there is no God. All that is there is only matter. But where does the shame come from? The scientist can try to ignore it or suppress it. But it will not disappear. Isn't shame one of the greatest potentials for conflict and war in the world?

Christian-based cultures made the cross visible when they established clear structures of responsibility. It regulated how people had to carry out their punishment. A functioning court that settled conflicts made the cross visible and freed people.

The Lord's Supper always reminded Christians of the cross. Over time, this ritual shaped the Western worldview. People became more self-responsible and trustworthy than in any other part of the world.

This strength also holds a family together. Parents and children make mistakes, but there is forgiveness. Therefore, they can go to each other and ask for forgiveness. They can stand by their mistakes and humble themselves. The cross has made it possible for a Christian-based relationship to last longer.

A family is a spiritual concept and cannot function without God or without the cross. The cross makes it possible. But when people do away with God, there is no longer a foundation for the family. The greatest threat to the West is not Islamist terrorism - it is the loss of those moral values that had strengthened Europe.

Looking back to a Christian based culture probably can help you to see the foundation of a family.

The Western worldview has found now its way into cultures all over the world. But they also brought the idea of secularisation. They explain things that they do not understand. There are a lot of bad things that the rest of the world is learning from the West. One of them is the view of the family. I think it is time to stand up as Christians and rethink.

## Conclusion

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Today, the common view in the West is that family can be between a man and a man or a woman and a woman. It is also no longer clear who is a man and how a woman is. People can decide for themselves which gender they are. Some confess neither gender or both or some other variation.

The West was stronger than the rest of the world because its understanding of family fitted in better to reality than anything else. What made the West strong, is now under attack? It is time to rethink and remember the history to understand the importance of families.

The Bible provided a structure for families. It brought security and stability. Children grow up in a secure environment. Christianity not only brought the structure of a family, it also helped through the cross; The cross of Jesus Christ helped families to stand together even if people do not do it by themselves.

God also gave a structure like a natural law that his creation can multiply and increase. But because humans are fallen beings, they need a law to help them understand the order of



creation. Most of the media and culture remains against this order. That is why it is really hard to follow it. It is an uphill battle.

Also, many people don't believe it's possible to hold this regulation. They come to the conclusion that it is better to ignore it or abolish it. People do not have enough strength and love to keep this ideal community together. That is why Moses allowed the Jews to divorce under different circumstances. Jesus explained that this is because people's hearts are evil. He did not promote divorce, but he was aware that it was impossible for human beings. He saw that people are not able to love each other. But he created a way that made it possible.

Christianity not only gave rules for families, but also helps people to follow those rules. Christianity could do what other philosophies and religions could not. And it brought strong stable families, which are the foundation for a healthy growing nation.

But families are now under a big attack. People think that the old understanding of families is no longer relevant for today. They want to abolish the common understanding of families. What made the West strong became the enemy of today?

The West has carried this worldview all over the world. International organisations support same-sex marriage wherever they can. Countries that do not accept it are blacklisted. People who support it are attacked. Families are in a critical state today.

The problem is not the political agenda. The big problem is the influence of Christians, which is constantly increasing. The fear of God has almost disappeared from our society. The consequences are now becoming apparent.

Without accepting the Creator and this given order, people will never realise the importance of marriage between a man and a woman as the only ideal.

The way to bring the world back to the understanding what a family is, is to teach the Christian faith. The fear of God must come back into our institutions.

Only the revelation of God can give us a clear picture of how a family should function according to the old understanding. What is the purpose of families?

Why does Africa want to adapt the Western Culture? The facade of the West is great but behind it is empty. My concern is that Africa is caught in the same mistake.

It is time to rethink and stand up for what would best fit the reality. We need a new revolution in our thinking. People need to become courageous and stand up against the mainstream. Are you one of them?

I hope this little booklet could help you to get a stronger understanding of families and you will be able to stand by it and pass it on to the next generation,

Thank you for your effort in reading this worldview. If you have any further questions, please let me know.