

God, Creation, Humanity, and Living Life

Session 2: “The Culture of Life: Your Family in God’s Plan”

Faith Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX, 10 Aug. 2013
Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D. ▪ www.ryanmacpherson.com

Introduction: “There are two ways: one of life and one of death” (*Didache*).

Scripture teaches that marriage is a divinely created, lifelong union that celebrates sexual complementarity, children, and chastity.

Our society claims marriage was invented by government, lasts only until one person wants to quit, does not have to involve two people of the opposite sex, does not have any necessary connection to childbearing or childrearing, and—well, what does that old-fashioned word “chastity” have to do with my “sexual identity” anyway?

(* = passages to look up as a group)

1. The culture of life cherishes God’s creation.

*Genesis 1:26–27 We are created by the Holy Trinity.
Isaiah 29:16 God is our designer.
Psalm 139:13–16 God made us carefully.
Romans 6:3–4 God brings us to new life through Baptism.
2 Corinthians 5:17 In Christ, we are a new creation.

2. The culture of life celebrates marital procreation.

*Genesis 1:28 God established marriage for the sake of children.
Psalm 127:3 Children are a heritage of the LORD.
Genesis 24:60 God’s people pray for fertile marriages.
Genesis 49:25 Fertility is a blessing that God’s people cherish.

3. The culture of life flows from marriage.

*Genesis 2:18 Marriage is a divinely created ...
Matthew 19:4–6 life-long union, celebrating ...
Genesis 1:27 sexual complementarity, ...
Malachi 2:15 children, and ...
Proverbs 5:18b–20 chastity.

4. The culture of life honors parents.

Exodus 20:12 Children, honor your parents (Fourth Commandment).
1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, honor your wives.
Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, train your children.
Proverbs 1:8, 23:22 Mothers, train your children.
*Titus 2:1–5 Wives, care for your husbands and children.

5. The culture of life respects the elderly.

Proverbs 16:31 Silver hair is a crown of glory.
Genesis 49 Grandparents, bless your grandchildren.
Hebrews 13:12 Christ’s suffering is redemptive.
Romans 8:18 Our suffering cannot be compared with the wonders of heaven.

- 6. The culture of life provides for widows and orphans.**
 *James 1:27 True religion includes caring for widows and orphans.
 Isaiah 1:17 God cares for them, so we should, too.
 Psalm 68:6 God places the solitary into families.
- 7. The culture of life nurtures the rising generation.**
 *Deuteronomy 6:4–7 Fathers, teach God’s Word to your family 24/7.
 Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, train your children in the Lord.
 Psalm 78:4,6–7 Fathers, train your children for your grandchildren’s sake.
- 8. The culture of life fosters a free and just society.**
 Romans 13:3–4 God establishes governments to protect and to punish.
 Daniel 3 and 6 Disobey only if the government commands contrary to God.
 Acts 5:29 God’s law always is higher than man’s law.
 Acts 25:11 Christians can make full use of their legal rights.
- 9. The culture of life appears doomed to extinction**
 Genesis 3:4 Death arose from deception.
 Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who deceive about spiritual matters.
- 10. The culture of life heralds the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
 Titus 3:4–7 Through Baptism, God’s mercy and grace grant us eternal life.
 1 John 2:1–2 Christ is the atonement for all our sins.
 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 Christ washes away every kind of sin.
 Isaiah 55:11 God’s Word has the power to restore us to spiritual life.
 Romans 1:16 Christ’s Gospel is the power of our salvation.

Conclusion: The culture of life looks to Christ alone.

Revelation 19:7 Christ awaits your arrival for the heavenly marriage feast.

For further study:

- Eggerichs, Emerson. *Love and Respect: The Love She Most Desires, The Respect He Desperately Needs*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.
- Grieger, V. S. *He Her Honour and She His Glory*, 4th ed. Minden, Qld., Australia: Verity Graphics, 2001.
- Pearl, Debbi. *Created to Be His Help Meet: Discover How God Can Make Your Marriage Glorious*. Pleasantville, TN: No Greater Joy Ministries, 2010.

Free resources available at THE HAUSVATER PROJECT (www.hausvater.org)

(Use the website’s “Search” feature to locate these titles once you access the website.)

- “Rhythm, Footwork, and Leadership—Three Essentials for the Marriage Dance”
- “The Trinitarian Foundation for Genuine Marriage Equality”
- “Rescuing a Marriage from ‘Divorce by a Million Molehills’”
- “‘Balancing Work and Family’ vs. ‘Redeeming the Time’”
- “Family Worship: Biblical Suggestions for Your Home”
- “Dads, It’s Time to Read God’s Word to Your Family”

This presentation is based on the book *The Culture of Life: Ten Essential Principles for Christian Bioethics*, by Ryan C. MacPherson.

For ordering information, visit: www.hausvater.org/books