

Ten Features of Ideal Families

We are in a total war against the family. In two areas the enemy makes his strongest attack: against the relationship between husband and wife and against sons and daughters. Pharaoh went after the boys (twice) and the enemy of *Adonai* is doing the same thing today. An old Puertorrican proverb says: "Mas sabe el diablo por viejo que por diablo" (the devil is much more knowledgeable because he is old than because he is the devil). The strategy of the enemy is always shown to us in Scripture, if we would only look with our whole heart. Why are congregations destroyed and the people are scattered? Don't you think the breakdown of the family unit has something to do with this?

1. **Strong Husbands** - we need husbands with convictions and with vision (revelation). We need to ask God to help us raise up Godly men.

⁵The land lies defiled under its inhabitants; because they have transgressed the teachings, changed the law and broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶Therefore a curse is devouring the land, and its inhabitants are punished for their guilt. It is why those living there waste away, and the people left are few. (Isa 24:5-6)

2. **Virtuous Wives** - with great trust for God.

¹⁰Who can find a capable wife? Her value is far beyond that of pearls. ¹¹Her husband trusts her from his heart, and she will prove a great asset to him. ¹²She works to bring him good, not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She procures a supply of wool and flax and works with willing hands. ¹⁴She is like those merchant vessels, bringing her food from far away. ¹⁵It's still dark when she rises to give food to her household and orders to the young women serving her. ¹⁶She considers a field, then buys it, and from her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She gathers her strength around her and throws herself into her work. ¹⁸She sees that her business affairs go well; her lamp stays lit at night. ¹⁹She puts her hands to the staff with the flax; her fingers hold the spinning rod. ²⁰She reaches out to embrace the poor and opens her arms to the needy. ²¹When it snows, she has no fear for her household; since all of them are doubly clothed. ²²She makes her own quilts; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is known at the city gates when he sits with the leaders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchants with sashes. ²⁵Clothed with strength and dignity, she can laugh at the days to come. ²⁶When she opens her mouth, she speaks wisely; on her tongue is loving instruction. ²⁷She watches how things go in her house, not eating the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children arise; they make her happy; her husband too, as he praises her: ²⁹"Many women have done wonderful things, but you surpass them all!" ³⁰Charm can lie, beauty can vanish, but a woman who fears ADONAI should be praised. ³¹Give her a share in what she produces; let her works speak her praises at the city gates. (Prov 31:10-31)

3. **Wise Fathers** - who listen and praise. Fathers who listen to their children when they speak to them. Young people need praise, those who praise them, win them over.

⁴Fathers, don't irritate your children and make them resentful; instead, raise them with the Lord's kind of discipline and guidance. (Eph. 6:4)

4. **Joyful Mothers** - women with inner contentment. All things God allows to happen to you God intends for joy, happiness, growth. But Satan turns God's opportunities into Bitterness, complaining, anger, etc. if we let him do so.

¹³A son who is a fool is his father's ruin, and a nagging wife is like a leak that keeps dripping. (Prov 19:13)

¹⁵A leak that keeps dripping on a rainy day and the nagging of a wife are the same.(Prov 27:15)

5. **Mature Sons** - sons that make wise commitments to the Lord. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not be defiled and disobey the Lord. This one commitment kept Daniel throughout his entire life.

⁸*But Dani'el resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food or the wine he drank, so he asked the chief officer to be excused from defiling himself. (Dan 1:8)*

6. **Radiant Daughters** - who guard their heart, which is their greatest treasure. Daughters, do not quickly give away your heart to anyone!

²³*Above everything else, guard your heart; for it is the source of life's consequences. (Prov 4:23)*

7. **Lasting Marriages** - marriages based on covenant vows.

²⁴*This is why a man is to leave his father and mother and stick with his wife, and they are to be one flesh. (Gen 2:24)*

8. **Obedient Children** - children that grow in character and honor their fathers and their mothers

1 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

2 *Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)*

3 *That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

(Eph 6:1-3)

9. **Secure Babies** - whose will is submitted

10. **Well-Kept Property** - Being neat and clean in all their jurisdiction