

## **Time to become militant about restoring the family**

The book of Genesis tells us that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. On it He created the ideal environment and placed men to rule over it, to be fruitful and to multiply.

From them, came countless nations, civilisations, and world orders but the foundation of all of these has always been the family unit.

The home and the family are first in our heart.

Our value systems, our identity and world view are foremost influenced by what we were taught by our parents and grandparents.

It is this influence that we carry into our communities and greater society. It is no wonder that the health of the family is important to God.

If you smite the family, you scatter society.

The moral situation we find ourselves in as a society is not by chance. It is the return of our investments. You get out, what you put in.

Our greatest challenge, as a nation, is the systemic breakdown of the family structure.

A big part of it is inherited legacies from the migrant labour systems that still persist. Pursuit of wealth for its own sake and the ensuing capitalist rat race adds more fuel to the fire.

We're faced with a situation of Parentlessness.

The system has enforced a situation where, on one hand, parents have abdicated the responsibility of parenting and delegated it to teachers, friends, television, and social media. On the other hand, it has subsumed the parental roles and responsibilities by enacting laws that leave parents unable to assert certain moral standards and discipline within their homes.

This infiltration by law has literally left parents with their hands tied behind their backs while their kids wave legal provisions enacted through the same legal system that agrees that they lack the mental capacity to act.

When the family is broken down, the nation bleeds.

Dad slaps mom. Mom spanks the child. The child kicks the dog, and the dog bites the neighbour – and soon society is ruled by bullies.

The learned behaviour from the home is what we carry to the school yard, the workplace, parliament, and the judiciary.

The ideal of a loving family home has been destroyed and as a result we're flying with a broken wing while trying to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

The success of any society hinges on the success of the family.

The first family unit was created from two adults – Adam and Eve – and from that we understand that maturity is critical for family success.

It is the parent's behaviour towards each other first, towards their parents and towards the children that affects the health of each family.

If we are to rebuild the broken walls of society and put out the fire at our gates then the moral leaders need to make a concerted effort towards the restoration of the family.

The easiest thing to do would be to give in and shift the responsibility of healing from familial trauma to the individual, but education specialists will tell you education begins at home.

Discipline and honour begin at home and so we cannot longer afford the defeatist attitude and apathy with which we have treated this particular pandemic.

We must set up ways to help parents.

We need to treat the family as an endangered species.

We need churches that will be militant about the restoration of marriages and make sure the couple, from which the family stems, is standing and building on solid foundations.

We need labour laws and workplace culture that encourages mom and dad to be together and to spend time as a family.

We need laws that encourage relationship. It is not enough to simply provide for monetary maintenance, emotional bonds need just as much maintenance.

We need a paternalistic state that will make concerted efforts to bridge the gap between the children and their unwedded parents.

Satan hates the family. His first attack was on marriage, through Eve and then the siblings, through Cain and to this day there is a constant and intentional onslaught on the family.

The rebuilding of our ruinous state rests with us being intentional, strategic and unrelenting in our concentrated efforts at turning the heart of the father to the child and the heart of the child to the father.

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