

MY FAMILY CIRCUS

God's Answer's To Surviving A Family Full Of Lions... Clowns and Bearded-Ladies!

(1) The Perfect Circus

TWO THINGS ALL FAMILIES HAVE IN COMMON...

1. WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER!

TWO THINGS ALL FAMILIES HAVE IN COMMON...

2. NO ONE YOU ARE RELATED TO... IS AS SMART AS YOU ARE!

*Every **CULTURE** that has embraced a **BIBLICAL WORLD-VIEW**...
WOMEN and **CHILDREN** have been **INCREDIBLY BLESSED!***

But...

*Every **CULTURE** who has not embraced a **BIBLICAL WORLD-VIEW**...
WOMEN and **CHILDREN**... **HAVE SUFFERED ENORMOUSLY!***

Colossians 3:18-19...

WIVES... submit yourselves to your husbands - as is fitting in the Lord.

HUSBANDS... love your wives and do not be **harsh** with them.

DON'T BE HARSH WITH THEM...?

Colossians 3:20...

CHILDREN... obey your parents in everything - for this pleases the Lord.

Colossians 3:21...

FATHERS... do not **embitter** your children - or they will become discouraged.

1 Peter 3:7...

HUSBANDS... in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives - and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as **heirs** with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

HUSBANDS... **LOVE** your **Wives** and always be **Considerate** to them!

WIVES... **SUBMIT** to your **Husbands!**

CHILDREN... **OBEY** your **Parents!**

FATHERS... Don't **IRRITATE** your **Kids!**

*This is **VERY... VERY... VERY... IDEALISTIC** Stuff!*

*The **FACT** is this...*

There's **REAL**... and there's **IDEAL**... and then there's a **GAP**!

Jesus **TAUGHT** and He continually **POINTED TO**... an **IDEAL**...
Yet He **REFUSED** to **CONDMEN**... those who fell short!

In every situation...

JESUS RAISED THE STANDARD!

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY!

THE STANDARD GOT HIGHER... AND THE GRACE WENT DEEPER!

Are we willing... to **EMBRACE** an **"IDEAL"**...
That may never become a **REALITY**... in our **CURRENT FAMILY**...?

Or...

Will we be tempted to **LOSE SIGHT OF THE "IDEAL"**...
To feel better about where we **ACTUALLY ARE**...?

Matthew 19:3...

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked...
"Is it lawful for a man to **divorce** his wife for any and every reason?"

Matthew 19:4-6...

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the **beginning**... the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the **two** will become **one** flesh'? 6 So they are no longer **two**, but **one** flesh. Therefore what **God** has joined together - let **no one separate**."

Matthew 19:7...

"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of **divorce** and send her away?"

Matthew 19:8...

Jesus replied, "Moses **permitted** you to **divorce** your wives because your hearts were hard. **But it was not this way from the beginning**."

WILL YOU EMBRACE THE STANDARD... THE "IDEAL"...
OF THIS THING CALLED "FAMILY"... THAT YOU MOST LIKELY HAVE
FALLEN SHORT OF... OR WILL FALL SHORT OF...?

Or...

WILL WE KEEP REDEFINING THE TERMS...
TO FEEL BETTER ABOUT... WHERE YOU ARE...?