
Building the Ideal Christian Family in Generation Z

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ABSTRACT:The knowledge about education to build an ideal Christian family obtained by Generation Z is not good enough, so the author gives the purpose of writing to discuss the crisis in the household, rebuild the household and provide Christian values in generation Z in preventing divorce. The author uses descriptive literature research method data and provides research results: How to build a harmonious family can be dynamically interwoven if we base our family development on strong Christian spirituality values accompanied by good communication between us and the children of Generation Z Surprisingly few studies have explored the implications of divorce occurring because families cannot be built, especially in Generation Z. This paper discusses some of the theoretical arguments that build families in generation Z based on the Bible and the challenges of the ideal family. The results showed that In building an ideal family, young people must first know what the ideal family is like. According to the author, the ideal family according to the Bible is: A family born of holy marriage, a God-fearing family, a born-again family, a growing and impactful family and a harmonious family.

KEYWORDS: build, christian family, generation z

1. INTRODUCTION

The Christian family is a living fellowship between fathers, mothers, and children who have believed and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior personally and imitated His life and teachings in daily life. Nababan, D2019:1)..

Today, many young people long to have the ideal family. Many young people before marriage have planned many things so that after marriage they have an ideal family. Find the best partner according to their version, get the best job, and make as much money as possible. Even so, the fact is that many families are damaged so that it is far from ideal according to God's word. There are many things that cause family damage to be damaged and far from ideal according to God's word. Can be caused by mixed marriages, same-sex marriage, infidelity, domestic violence, loss of trust between husband and wife.

No matter how good the preparation of young people to have an ideal family after marriage, it will be in vain if it is not based on God's Word. Therefore, every young person who wants to have an ideal family must have a partner who both believe in the Lord Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and base their family life on God's word. If so, an ideal family will be created, which glorifies the name of God and has an impact on others.

Therefore, this paper is called to write the voice of truth regarding the ideal Christian family according to God's word. Given the many families who experience failure in the household. So this paper will explain how it is the ideal Christian family according to God's word. By describing the family according to the Bible and experts, the ideal family according to the Bible, the character of the ideal family, the challenges of the ideal family, and keeping the family ideal. Hopefully, through this paper, young people can be enriched to truly understand the ideal Christian family according to God's word. And encourage young people to reflect in their future family life.

RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, the authors use qualitative research methods, namely research procedures that produce descriptive data in written and oral form from various sources. Data obtained from observations in the daily environment of the local community (Moleong, 2000: 3). Qualitative descriptive research seeks to describe and interpret the conditions or relationships contained in the object of research, ongoing legal processes, and the consequences or trends that are developing in the research process (Sunarto, 1990:47).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Family according to the Bible

Before talking about the ideal family, it's good to first understand the meaning of family. It's like wanting to eat cake, it's good to understand first what cake to eat. Likewise, before thinking about the ideal family, it is good to first think about what a family is.

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According to the Bible, the family is the first institution that exists in this world which God directly created. The family as the first institution begins with marriage or is blessed by God (Gen. 1:28). This is in line with Jaliaman Sinaga's view, marriage is the first institution created by Allah, the oldest in this world. Before there was one nation, kingdom, even church. God first created a family unit (Sinaga 2007:1)

God created a family unit as the first institution, with the blessing of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. At that time God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone at that time. Allah made Adam sleep soundly, then took Adam's rib and covered it with flesh. From that rib, God created Eve and brought her to Adam. God then blessed and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and conquer it, have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over all the beasts that move along the earth" (Gen 1:28; Gen 2:18-22)

When God blessed Adam and Eve as legal husband and wife, at that time it was only them. There is no Adam, Eve and another woman or Eve, Adam and another man. This shows that God created a true family consisting of one husband and one wife. In other words, Allah created a monogamous marriage, not polygamy or polyandry. Then a true family is a family created from marriage between a man and a woman, not a man and a man or a woman and a woman. Thus, the family created by same-sex marriage is part of a rebellion against the decree that God has made from the beginning. (Gen. 1:28; 2 Gen. 2:24-25)

But God's decree regarding the family, began to be broken by humans. It happened after man fell into sin (Gen. 3). The family was then tainted by polygamy (Gen. 4:18). Polygamy at that time was practiced by Lamekh. Lamech took two wives, namely Ada and Zila. Allah never introduced it, but because of rebellion, humans dared to do it.

Family according to Experts

The family is the smallest unit of society, consisting of father, mother and children. The family is formed through the process of holy marriage between a man and a woman. Families have blood ties between members of one another. The family plays an important role in shaping the faith and character of everyone in it.

According to Pujosuwarno, the family is a bond of fellowship living on the basis of marriage between adults of different sexes who live together between a man or a woman who is alone with or without children, either their own children or adopted and living in a household. Kibtyah, M. 2014: 364).

According to Duvall (1976) the family is also called a group of related people, such as marriage, adoption, birth, whose purpose is to create and maintain a general, social and emotional culture of members, improve mental and physical development (Wulansari, SAD 2019: 1)

Burges et al. have traditionally defined family as follows:

1. In the family there are people who are based on blood ties, marriage and adoption;
2. Family members usually live together in one house, if living separately they still consider the household as their home;
3. Family members interact and communicate with each other in the social role of the family;
4. Families use the same culture (Wulansari, SAD 2019:1).

Families are bound by the foundation of holy marriage and blood ties. Usually they live in the same house, otherwise the household is considered as a house, and uses the same culture. Each family member forms each other in an interaction and communication in the social family. There are several things that must be met to make the ideal family according to the author, which is based on God's word, as follows:

1. Family Born from Holy Marriage

According to the Bible, the family is the first institution that God formed (Gen. 1:28; Gen. 2:24-25). God formed the first family by blessing Adam and Eve. Likewise today, an ideal family must go through a holy marriage. In a holy marriage the bride and groom will be blessed to enter a new home.

The family born of the holy marriage that God intended is a male and female pair (Gen. 1:28). Not a boy and a boy or a girl and a girl. Same-sex marriage is not holy marriage, but rebellion against God. God never intended same-sex marriage. Let alone same-sex marriage, loving and relating to the same sex is an abomination to God (Gen. 19; Lev. 18:22; 20:13). God only wants marriage of the opposite sex, or a man and woman who are ready. Therefore, the ideal family is a family born of holy marriage.

Sri Dwi Harti in his journal, "The Importance of Pastoral Services for LGBT Victims" stated:

According to Anita Mauboy and Sjanette Eveline, "Marriage is the first institution ordained by God Himself. In (Gen 2:18-25), the Bible clearly states that the establishment and establishment of the institution of marriage was held before the world fell into sin. When God created man, He created man and woman and through them God designed the institution of marriage."7 This means that from the beginning God wanted every human being to form a family consisting of a man and a woman. In fact, Jesus reaffirmed in Mark 10:6-8 that from the beginning the Lord God created male and female" (Harti, SD 2020:196)

The above statement further emphasizes that the ideal family is a family born of holy marriage, between a man and a woman. Beyond that is rebellion against God's decree. However, if there are, couples who are pregnant out of wedlock and are just about to enter into marriage, both partners must have the courage to confess their sins before being confirmed as a new family. When they confess their sins, God will forgive the sins they have committed (1 John 1:9).

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2. God-fearing Family

When a family is born through a holy marriage, this shows the seriousness of both partners to have an attitude of fearing God, why? Because both partners respect and obey the provisions that God has made. A family that fears God means a family that obeys all of God's commands and has a good relationship with God. In the family, parents must be good role models for children. This means that parents must have an attitude that truly fears God, so that they can be good examples for their children. Then pass that attitude on to the children. Thus created a family that fears God, which leads to the glory of God's name.

Dr. Irfan F. Simanjuntak, M.Th in his journal, "Forming a Generation That Fears God" said:

To have such a life, especially for the younger generation of today Now, the family, especially parents, has a significant role. Formation which is carried out in a measurable and planned manner by parents is an unavoidable ignored. As Tripp puts it, "Children should be brought in so that understand that living as a creature in God's world means submitting to God is good and wise in all things" Therefore parents need to think, plan and implement ways that can shape their children became afraid of the Lord. (2020:95)

The above expression further emphasizes that parents play an important role in shaping the character of children to fear God (Deut. 6:4-9). Good examples candone by parents, not just words but manifested in real actions. This means that God-fearing parents will truly reflect on it in real life. Children see and observe it will be encouraged to also do it.

3. Newborn Family

Families don't just stop at fearing God. But must also think about being a born again family. a born again family is very important for every Christian family. Simply put, a born again family is a family that truly believes in the Lord Jesus as Lord and Savior. And become a family that has strong confidence in the certainty of salvation in the Lord Jesus (1 John 5:13).

It is very dangerous if a family is not born again. When parents still doubt about their safety, what about their children? Parents play an important role in passing on faith to their children. Therefore, every Christian family must experience being born again. Every parent must realize and believe that having true faith in the Lord Jesus will bring him certainty of salvation (Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:13). After realizing that, parents then teach and pass it on to their children. That there is no salvation outside the Lord Jesus and salvation is only done by the Lord Jesus, not the result of human efforts (Eph 2:8-9). Therefore, never leave the Lord Jesus under any circumstances!

With a new birth occurring in a family, every member of the family will love and care for the Lord Jesus more and more. The family has a passion to serve God and others, because they have realized and felt God's extraordinary love. God's love that not only suffices needs but also has saved lives. Family life is centered on the Lord Jesus, no longer on wealth and throne.

4. Families Grow and Impact

Fear of God and being born again will surely bring the family to grow and have an impact for the glory of God's name. Without both it will be very difficult for the family to grow and have an impact. For the writer, the fear of God and being born again is very important, because it is the basis for the family. Second, it makes Jesus the center of the family and the family is rooted in Jesus. Families will grow because they are rooted in the Lord Jesus. Like all seeds rooted in the soil in the right place, the seeds will grow well. It's different if the seed is rooted in bad soil, of course the seed is difficult to grow or even doesn't grow well. Rooted in the Lord Jesus, the family will grow well and produce a good impact on others.

Growth in the family can be seen by living in love with each other, having mature faith, and having good relationships with God and others. Then the family that has an impact is not only in words, but is manifested in real actions, so that it can really be felt by others. These actions can take the form of helping, preaching the gospel, etc. But keep in mind that a growing and impactful family starts from within, namely with the fear of God and the new birth.

5. Harmonious family

There is no harmony in a family if it does not have the right foundation in it. No matter how well laid out, it will fail. It may look successful, but what's the point if it perishes later, because there is no certainty of salvation.

The harmony of a family, is not measured by a lot of wealth, high position, and success achieved. That's not a guarantee at all. One day all that could be vanished in the blink of an eye, by a storm of trouble. Resulting in distress and adversity in the family. Will the family still be in harmony if it is in a broken and down condition? When the family bases its harmony with worldly matters, of course not, because the basis is wrong.

According to Damayanti Nababan in his journal, "The Christian Family as God's Family" there are several factors that affect harmony as follows: Socio-economic, . Third parties (Family, friends, neighbors), Infidelity, Children, Habits, Communication, Illness, Wealth, Educational background, Dishonest, Lifestyle, Saturation, Suspicious, Jealousy, Position, Egocentrism, Education, Busyness, and Away from Religion(Nababan, D2019:5).

The factors above show that many things can affect harmony in the family. For the author, the harmony of a family is largely determined by its basis. Like a house, strong and sturdy is determined by the foundation as well as family harmony. When the basis of family harmony is with what is in this world, it can be ascertained that harmony is only a pseudo harmony.

But when the family truly fears God and has experienced the new birth. So the author confidently states that harmony will exist in the family, why? Because the family made Jesus the center and foundation of the family. To fear the Lord means to love God and

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keep His commandments. When every family member truly loves God, every family member will be enabled to love one another. By loving God and each other, the family will be very harmonious.

The new born family also greatly affects the harmony in the family. With being born again, the focus of the family is focused only on the Lord Jesus, no longer with what is in this world. Even in a slumped and destroyed condition, family harmony is maintained because the focus is on the Lord Jesus, not on the problems that exist. The hope of the family is focused only on the Lord Jesus.

Then with the new birth, all family members have truly believed in their salvation in the Lord Jesus. Thus, families who truly believe in God will someday be with the Lord Jesus in eternity. An incomparable happiness and joy when the family truly believes in the Lord Jesus.

Ideal family challenge

In living domestic life, of course, it doesn't always run smoothly and straight. There will definitely be challenges and obstacles to be faced, both internally and externally. Therefore, the ideal family must be able to anticipate these challenges, and must respond properly and correctly. Then the family must also be honest with each other and correct each other.

1. Communication

In a family communication between family members with one another is needed. Without good communication, even a small problem can become a big problem and there will often be misunderstandings between family members (especially father and mother). On the other hand, with good communication, everything can be discussed properly and a good solution will be found.

Benjamin Telsoni in his journal "The Role of Communication in Christian Families Based on Deuteronomy 6:7", reveals:

Communication in the family can be interpreted as a readiness to talk openly in all things both pleasant and unpleasant. The characteristics of communication in the family according to the following:

1. Openness: Openness in this communication is the extent to which the individual has openness in interacting with other people. The openness that occurs in the communication provides a clear response to the thoughts and feelings expressed.
2. Empathy: The hallmark of empathetic communication is where the individual feels the same way as the other person feels, without having to be actually involved in the feelings or response of the other person.
3. Similarity: The similarity here is how the person who conveys the message has something in common with others in terms of communicating and listening.
4. Positive Feelings: This trait is where the individual must have positive feelings towards what other people say to him. (2020:21-21)

The expression above shows that good communication requires good readiness, between the communicator and the communicant. Communication also requires, openness, empathy, equality, and positive feelings, when it is in communication in the family then the relations in the family will run well and effectively.

However, even today communication can be a challenge in the ideal family. Poor communication will have fatal consequences in the household. Poor communication can occur because parents are more busy with work and neglect communication with family members. Not taking time to talk to spouse and children. Though the most important needs of couples and children is communication to listen to their stories and needs.

Poor communication can also occur when parents are more busy using social media. Even communicating at home using social media. The needs of spouses and children are neglected because they are hypnotized by the excitement of applying social media. Of course it will worsen the household. Will trigger quarrels in the household.

Therefore the family must also be built with good communication. You should also set aside a special time to talk to your spouse and children. Remember bad communication will only bring strife and destruction in the household. But with good communication, the relationship with your spouse and children is going well and harmoniously

2. Time

Time with family is a very beautiful and precious moment, even very difficult to repeat. Time with family is not only when there are big moments, such as Christmas and New Year. actually time with ordinary family anytime and anywhere, depending on the parents arrange it. Unfortunately, nowadays many families find it difficult to manage time to be with their family. Busy with work, so time with spouse and children is neglected.

After all, time with your partner and children is very important. By spending time with your partner and children, beautiful moments will be created. More than that, they will understand more about their partner and child through the communication that is established.

Parents are also required to have time for children. This time is spent educating in righteousness, trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior and keeping all His commandments. Parents should not only rely on Sunday school teachers for the development of their children's faith. It is the responsibility of the parents (Deut. 6:7).

If parents do not have time to teach children to grow their faith, then the child will grow up with minimal knowledge of God. If the child's faith does not grow, it can be said that the parents have neglected their responsibilities. Therefore, time for spouse and children is very important. It's good time to communicate to understand each other better, but also time to educate.

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3. Economy

The family economy is often a tough challenge in the family. Not infrequently quarrels in the family begin with economic problems. When the economy is good and can be fulfilled, the problem is not visible. But when there is a storm of life, for example, being fired from a job or going bankrupt. Of course it will have an impact on the family economy. This is where the seeds of the problem began to appear.

How did the family respond to this? Not infrequently the response that comes out is stress and starting to despair. Start borrowing here and there, which will only add to the problem. Or even starting to leave a spouse and child.

Actually, what you have to do is keep your hope in the Lord Jesus and ask for his help. Then start trying with your partner to restore the family's economy that was hit by a storm of problems. Desperation and stress will not solve the problem. But by trying and praying, then believe that something will happen. God will work together for those who love Him! He will not spare His children. Likewise the family who continue to hope in him and who continue to try.

Keeping the family ideal

The ideal family is the family that every young person desires. In order for a family that is formed to remain ideal, of course it needs to be maintained. Like a fire, in order to keep it burning properly, it needs to be maintained and cared for. Likewise with the ideal family, it must be maintained and maintained properly. According to the author, there are several things that must be done so that the family remains ideal, as follows:

1. Keep believing in the Lord Jesus

The family in order to remain ideal must continue to believe in the Lord Jesus, as Lord and Savior. Never apostatize family by leaving the Lord Jesus. Families will not grow well if they leave the Lord Jesus. The family will experience a decline in faith. As a result, the once fine family will be torn apart. Although physically fine, but spiritually empty, empty, and dry.

Therefore the family must continue to believe in the Lord Jesus. Jesus is head over men, men head over women. Shows that Jesus is the head of the family, with the structure of Jesus, husband, wife and children (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-28; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:18-20). Jesus as the head of the family means that the family is obedient and submissive to Jesus, and prioritizes Jesus. Asking for His guidance and help so that we can continue to be a family that glorifies Him and has an impact on others.

By believing in the Lord Jesus the family will remain strong even in difficult conditions, why? Because the family no longer focuses on conditions but on the Lord Jesus. With full hope of His help and continue to do the best. The savings even in difficult times do not change the ideal of the family!

2. Keep the relationship

True family relationships are described in Colossians 3:18-21;

¹⁸Wives, submit to your husbands, as ought in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wife and do not be rude to her. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for that is what is beautiful in the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not offend your children, so that they do not lose heart." This verse illustrates that in the family, the wife must submit to her husband. The husband must love his wife and not be rude. Children must obey their parents. Then the father cannot hurt his son's heart.

But it should not be interpreted that the husband is free to do anything and the wife must not protest the husband's decision, on the grounds that the wife must submit to her husband. Of course that is a wrong interpretation. The wife is subject to the husband, but the wife is not the husband's slave.

Sinaga in his book, "Seven Pillars of Marriage" states:

1. Men and women have equal standing before Allah.
2. Men and women both have the same mandate.
3. Men and women are both blessed by God. (Sinaga, 2007).

Sinaga further emphasized that the wife is not a slave to her husband. However, the wife must not forget her responsibilities as a wife, as well as the husband.

Then a child in relation to parents must respect and obey parents. As is written the law (Ex 20:12). Honoring one's parents is a beautiful thing, and it does have a good effect. It is impossible for children to respect God, if they cannot respect their parents. With respect, a good relationship is created in the family. Moreover, it is a form of obedience to Allah's commands.

It saves that all must carry out their roles properly and correctly, according to what the Bible teaches. So that family relationships can run well and effectively, which continues to create an ideal family.

Conclusion

The family is the first institution that God formed on this earth. Thus in the form of a family must be in accordance with its provisions. Forming a family outside of His decree is a form of rebellion.

In building an ideal family, young people must first know what the ideal family is like. According to the author, the ideal family according to the Bible is:

1. A family born of holy marriage
2. God-fearing family

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3. Newborn family
4. A growing and impactful family
5. Harmonious family

Of course in all forms it is not easy, but when young people live it with Jesus, it will definitely be possible. Young people must also anticipate the challenges that can hinder the ideal family, namely time, communication, and the economy. Then to be able to maintain an ideal family, young people must form a family that continues to believe in the Lord Jesus and continue to maintain relationships according to Bible.

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