

Biblical Covenant Order in the Home

The War Against Covenant Order

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma



Book 5 - Chapter 02 – Study 02

***SATAN'S STRATEGY AGAINST THE FAMILY
Through the Destruction of the Father's Influence***

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My beloved brethren,

There is a matter that has weighed heavily upon my heart, and because I love you, I cannot remain silent concerning it. We live in a time when many things that God established are being neglected, redefined, or treated as though they no longer matter. Among these is the unity that God intended to exist between a husband and a wife.

From the beginning, God did not create two separate paths within the marriage covenant. He joined a man and a woman together and declared that they would become one flesh. This was not merely a physical union, but a joining of purpose, direction, responsibility, and life. What God joined together was intended to walk together.

Yet I have seen many households where this is no longer the case. Husband and wife live under the same roof, yet they do not walk in the same direction. They share the same home, yet they do not share the same convictions. They raise the same children, yet they often pull those children toward different priorities, different beliefs, and different examples. What God intended to function as one body slowly begins to operate as two.

Many do not recognize the danger because the consequences are not always immediate. The home still stands. The family still gathers together. Daily life continues. Yet beneath the surface something is happening. Children are watching. They are learning. They are observing which convictions are honored and which are ignored. They are learning whether unity matters, whether authority matters, and whether God's design for the family is worthy of respect.

Beloved, we must not deceive ourselves. A divided house is never as strong as a united one. Where husband and wife cease to walk together, confusion enters. Where confusion enters, clarity disappears. Where clarity disappears, the next generation often pays the price.

The enemy knows this far better than many believers do. He knows that he does not need to destroy a family in a single day. He only needs to weaken what God intended to be united. He only needs to create enough division that husband and wife cease strengthening one another and begin pulling against one another. Once that happens, the children are left to navigate influences they were never meant to judge between.

I have watched families grieve over children who no longer desire the things of God, yet years earlier those same children witnessed division within the very people who were supposed to guide them. I have watched husbands grow discouraged and wives grow hardened, while neither fully realized the effect their conflict was having upon those who were watching them. By the time the harvest appeared, the seeds had already been planted long before.

Therefore, I urge you, Brethren, do not treat these matters lightly. Examine your home. Examine your marriage. Ask yourselves whether you are truly walking together as one flesh or merely existing together while following separate paths. Ask whether your children see unity or division, agreement or conflict, mutual support or continual resistance.

None of us are perfect. Every marriage will face difficulties. Every household will experience seasons of struggle. Yet there is a great difference between struggling together and pulling apart from one another. One strengthens the covenant. The other weakens it. If there is division, address it while it is still small. If there is distance, seek reconciliation while there is still time. If there is resentment, put it away before it takes root. Do not allow years to pass while believing that unresolved problems will somehow correct themselves. What is neglected today often becomes tomorrow's burden.

I write these things not to condemn but to warn. Those whom we love, we warn. Those whom we love, we speak truth to. For the family is one of God's greatest gifts, and it must not be surrendered carelessly to the devices of the enemy.

May the Lord grant wisdom to husbands, grace to wives, understanding to children, and peace to every household that seeks to walk according to His ways.

Your brother and fellow servant in Christ,
John.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are few things Satan fears more than a household that walks together in obedience to God.

A husband and wife united in purpose, united in faith, united in prayer, and united in direction become a powerful witness to the wisdom and authority of God. Such a home provides stability for children, protection against deception, and an environment where faith can be passed from one generation to the next.

For this reason, the family has always been one of Satan's primary targets.

The enemy understands that if he can divide a husband and wife, he can weaken the entire household. He knows that if the parents no longer move together, the children will eventually be forced to choose which voice they will follow. He knows that when unity disappears, confusion enters. When confusion enters, influence shifts. When influence shifts, future generations are affected.

Many believers imagine that a divided house begins with great acts of rebellion, dramatic arguments, or open hostility.

In reality, division often begins much smaller. It begins when one spouse repeatedly pulls in a different direction. It begins when convictions are no longer shared, when priorities no longer align, when spiritual responsibilities are neglected, and when husband and wife slowly cease functioning as one flesh.

The danger is not merely the conflict itself.

The greater danger is what the conflict teaches.

Children learn far more from what they observe than from what they are told. They watch how their parents respond to one another. They observe whether leadership is respected, whether unity is protected, and whether God's order is honored within the home. Long before they understand doctrine, they are learning lessons about authority, marriage, commitment, and faithfulness.

A divided household places burdens upon children that God never intended them to carry. Instead of receiving clear guidance, they are exposed to competing influences. Instead of seeing unity, they witness opposition. Instead of learning how a godly household functions, they learn how to navigate division.

The consequences often remain hidden for years.

Parents may assume everything is fine because the family still gathers together, meals are still shared, and life appears normal on the surface. Yet beneath those appearances, attitudes are being formed, loyalties are being shaped, and foundations are being laid that may influence future generations long after today's disagreements have been forgotten.

Scripture warns us that a house divided against itself cannot stand. Mark 3:24-25 (KJV) And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Those words are not merely a statement about kingdoms and nations. They reveal a principle woven into every area of life. Division weakens what unity strengthens. It destroys what cooperation builds. It scatters what agreement gathers together.

This study is not intended to condemn anyone. Its purpose is to expose a strategy that has been used against families for generations. The goal is not blame but understanding. The goal is not accusation but awareness. Before a problem can be corrected, it must first be recognized.

As you work through these pages, I encourage you to do so with humility, honesty, and prayer. Do not measure what is written against personal feelings, cultural traditions, or past experiences. Measure everything against the Word of God.

Ask yourself difficult questions.

Is my home moving in one direction or several?

Are unity and agreement being protected?

What are the children learning from what they observe every day?

Are we strengthening God's design for the family, or slowly allowing it to erode?

The answers may be uncomfortable, but truth has never been the enemy of God's people. Truth is often the very thing that God uses to heal what has been broken.

Amos 3:3 (KJV) Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

May this study help you recognize the importance of unity, the danger of division, and the responsibility every believer carries to protect the covenant order that God established within the home. For what is built in one generation is often inherited by the next.

John,
Servant of Christ
Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

HOW SATAN DESTROYS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Joshua 24:15 (KJV) As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Satan has always understood something that many families fail to recognize until it is too late. If he can weaken the head of the household, he can influence the direction of the entire family. His goal is not always to remove the husband from the home. In fact, some of his greatest victories occur while the husband remains physically present. The father still goes to work. He still pays bills. He still attends family gatherings. He still occupies a chair at the dinner table. Yet little by little his influence disappears, his authority is questioned, his leadership is resisted, and his voice carries less weight than it once did.

Many families never recognize the process while it is happening. They see individual disagreements, isolated arguments, and occasional conflicts. What they fail to see is the larger pattern. Satan is not fighting over one disagreement. He is fighting for influence. He is fighting for authority. He is fighting for the hearts and minds of the children who are watching everything unfold.

The destruction of a household rarely begins with collapse. It begins with erosion. Small compromises, repeated opposition, public criticism, competing authorities, and divided loyalties slowly weaken the foundation until the structure that once appeared strong becomes unstable.

What makes this danger particularly serious is that the damage often spreads long before anyone recognizes it. The husband is affected. The wife is affected. The children are affected. Future generations may even be affected. What begins as opposition to leadership often becomes confusion throughout the entire family.

This is why Satan targets the head of the household. He understands that if leadership can be weakened, the consequences rarely stop there.

SATAN ATTACKS RESPECT BEFORE HE ATTACKS AUTHORITY

Most people imagine that authority is destroyed through some major act of rebellion. They picture a dramatic confrontation, an open refusal to submit, or some obvious challenge to leadership. Yet in most homes that is not how it happens. Authority is rarely destroyed all at once. It is usually weakened little by little, often through behaviors that seem harmless at the time.

A husband may establish a direction for the family, believing he is fulfilling his responsibility before God. He may want family Bible studies, certain standards within the home, or a particular approach to raising the children. Whether every decision is perfect is not the point. The point is that he is attempting to lead. Yet if every attempt at leadership is met with correction, contradiction, resistance, or criticism, something begins to happen beneath the surface.

At first the children may not fully understand what they are witnessing. They simply observe their father making a decision and their mother immediately challenging it. They watch him express a concern and hear it dismissed. They watch him establish a standard and then see that standard ignored when it becomes inconvenient. Nobody sits the children down and explains what is happening, yet they are learning all the same.

Children learn through observation long before they learn through instruction. Proverbs 22:6 (KJV) 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

A mother may tell her children that they should respect their father, but if they repeatedly watch her treat his leadership as optional, they will believe the example long before they believe the words. Human beings are built that way. What we consistently observe eventually becomes more convincing than what we occasionally hear.

This is where many families fail to recognize the danger. They focus on the disagreement itself rather than the lesson being

taught through the disagreement. The argument may be about church attendance, homeschooling, discipline, finances, or family priorities. Years later, the children may not even remember what the argument was about. What they often remember is who carried influence and who did not. They remember whether their parents moved together or against one another. They remember whether leadership was respected or constantly challenged.

Satan understands something that many parents overlook. If he can weaken respect, authority eventually becomes much easier to undermine. A father may still occupy the position of head of the household, but position alone cannot preserve influence. Once children begin viewing his leadership as merely one opinion among many, the foundation has already begun to shift.

The tragedy is that this process is usually invisible while it is happening. Nobody wakes up one morning and announces that respect has disappeared. It erodes slowly. A sarcastic comment here, a public correction there, a disagreement handled poorly, a pattern of resistance repeated often enough that it becomes normal. By the time the consequences become obvious, the lessons have often been taught for years.

And the children have been learning every one of them.

HOW SATAN TURNS CHILDREN INTO PARTICIPANTS IN THE DIVISION

Ephesians 5:33 (KJV) "...and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Most parents understand that children are affected by conflict, but what many fail to recognize is that children rarely remain passive observers for long. Given enough time, they begin participating in the very division they once merely watched. What starts as a disagreement between husband and wife eventually becomes part of the child's understanding of how relationships, authority, and family life are supposed to function.

At first, a child simply notices differences. Dad believes one thing while Mom believes another. Dad wants family Bible studies while Mom chooses not to participate. Dad believes the family should move in one direction while Mom prefers another. The child may not fully understand the reasons behind these disagreements, but they are fully aware that the disagreements exist. Children are often far more observant than adults realize, and they quickly learn to recognize when the people leading the household are no longer walking together.

As the years pass, the child begins adapting to the environment around them. Human beings naturally learn how to function within the systems they live in. A child raised in a home where parents consistently support one another learns unity because unity is what they experience every day. A child raised in a divided household learns something very different. Instead of learning how to follow a unified direction, they learn how to navigate competing directions.

This is where a subtle but significant shift often occurs. Rather than asking what is right, the child begins asking who agrees with them. The difference may appear small, yet it changes the way they approach nearly every situation. When they desire greater freedom, they learn which parent is most likely to grant it. When they dislike a family rule, they learn which parent is most likely to

oppose it. When conflict arises, they begin looking for the parent who will support their position. Over time, they become skilled at navigating the division that already exists within the home.

What makes this especially dangerous is that most children are not acting maliciously. They are simply adapting to the environment that surrounds them. They are learning what works. If Dad says no and Mom says yes, they learn something. If Mom establishes a standard and Dad quietly undermines it, they learn something. If one parent supports a decision while the other openly opposes it, they learn something. Children become experts at reading these patterns because they live within them every day, and the lessons they absorb often become more powerful than anything formally taught to them. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (KJV) "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children..."

This helps explain why divided households frequently produce confused children. The confusion is not always intellectual. In many cases it is relational. The child struggles to identify whose direction truly represents the direction of the family. They hear competing messages, observe competing priorities, and watch competing authorities operate within the same home. Rather than being guided toward a common destination, they find themselves standing between conflicting paths.

The spiritual consequences can be even more serious. Imagine a father who believes family worship should be central to the home. He gathers the family for Bible study, attempts to lead discussions, and works to establish spiritual direction. Yet the mother remains uninvolved, uninterested, or openly resistant. The children watch this pattern unfold year after year until eventually they are confronted with a choice they were never meant to make. The father invites them to study. The mother chooses another path. Ephesians 6:1-3 (KJV) "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right..."

The children are left asking themselves a question that should never have been placed upon their shoulders: "Who do I follow?"

What began as a disagreement between husband and wife has now become a burden carried by the children. Instead of receiving unified guidance, they are forced to evaluate competing influences.

Many parents never stop to consider how destructive this can be. A child was never designed to function as a judge between father and mother. Yet divided households often place them in exactly that position. They begin evaluating which parent they prefer, which parent seems easier to follow, which parent aligns more closely with their desires, or which parent demands less sacrifice. At that point the issue is no longer truth but preference, and preference has a way of leading people toward the path they already wanted to take. Satan understands this principle well. Once children begin choosing sides, the family has moved far beyond a simple disagreement. Division has become part of the culture of the home. It has become normal, expected, and deeply woven into the relationships that shape everyday life.

The tragedy is that many parents never recognize the long-term consequences while they are unfolding. They focus on the immediate disagreement while their children are absorbing lessons that may remain with them for decades. A son who grows up watching divided authority may eventually build a divided home of his own. A daughter who spends years observing opposition and competing loyalties may carry those same patterns into her future marriage without ever realizing where they came from.

Years later the children may not remember every argument, every disagreement, or every detail of the conflicts they witnessed. What they will often remember is the pattern. They will remember what life felt like inside the home. They will remember whether their parents walked together or against one another, whether unity was protected or repeatedly sacrificed. Those memories become part of the foundation upon which they build their own understanding

of marriage, family, authority, and relationships, often influencing them long after the original conflicts have been forgotten.

There is another lesson children absorb that many parents never consider. Children do not merely remember individual arguments. They remember atmosphere. They remember whether home felt peaceful or tense. They remember whether respect was practiced or merely spoken about. They remember whether forgiveness was common or rare. Long before they understand doctrine, they are learning what relationships look like. Long before they understand theology, they are learning how people treat one another. The atmosphere of a household often teaches lessons that remain long after specific conversations have been forgotten.

THE DESTRUCTION OF A FATHER'S CONFIDENCE

Most people understand what it looks like when a man's authority is attacked. They can recognize open defiance, public disagreement, and obvious challenges to leadership. Far fewer people recognize what happens when a man's confidence is attacked because the damage often takes place quietly and beneath the surface. Although authority and confidence are connected, they are not the same thing. A man can continue carrying authority long after the confidence that once supported it has begun to disappear.

From the outside, very little may appear different. He still goes to work, continues providing for his family, and remains present within the home. He still fulfills responsibilities and carries many of the burdens he has always carried. Yet internally something has changed. The confidence that once motivated him to lead, guide, and establish direction has begun to weaken.

Most husbands enter marriage with a sincere desire to build something meaningful. They want to protect their families, provide stability, establish direction, and leave behind something that lasts.

Many fathers assume that because they faithfully provided for their families, their influence was secure. Ephesians 6:4 (KJV) "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Yet provision and influence are not the same thing. A man may spend twenty years providing food, shelter, protection, and financial stability only to discover that someone else played a greater role in shaping the convictions, priorities, and loyalties of his children. This realization often comes late in life, when the children are grown and the direction of their lives reveals whose influence truly shaped them. The discovery can be deeply painful because it forces a father to recognize that sacrifice alone does not guarantee influence.

Few men begin their journey hoping to become passive, withdrawn, or silent. Most begin with hope. They believe their efforts matter, that their leadership can make a difference, and that the family they are building will benefit from their involvement.

The problem is that hope can be wounded. When every concern is questioned, every decision becomes a debate, every effort is criticized, and every attempt at leadership is met with resistance, something begins happening beneath the surface. The husband starts wondering whether his leadership is helping or hurting. Decisions he once made confidently are now second-guessed. Conversations that once seemed necessary begin feeling exhausting. Gradually he starts asking whether speaking up is worth the conflict that will likely follow.

In the beginning he continues trying. He explains himself, defends his reasoning, searches for common ground, and pushes forward because he still believes the effort is worthwhile. He tells himself that things can improve, that understanding can be reached, and that persistence will eventually produce results. For a time, that hope keeps him moving forward.

Yet repeated opposition has consequences because human beings are deeply affected by what they experience over long periods of time. Just as encouragement can strengthen confidence, constant resistance can weaken it. The same principle that shapes children also shapes adults. A husband who repeatedly feels that his leadership is unwanted eventually begins questioning whether offering it serves any purpose at all. Galatians 6:9 (KJV) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

What makes this process particularly dangerous is that it rarely happens through one argument or one disagreement. It happens through accumulation. Year after year, disappointments pile on top of disappointments. Frustrations accumulate. Resistance becomes familiar. The weight of these experiences slowly changes the way a man views his role within the family.

Eventually many fathers arrive at a place where silence feels easier than leadership. This moment is often misunderstood by everyone around them. Family members may see the silence and assume he no longer cares. They may see the withdrawal and conclude that he has become passive, lazy, or indifferent. What they rarely consider is how many times he tried before reaching that point. They do not see the years of conversations that ended in conflict, the efforts that ended in frustration, or the repeated attempts at leadership that were met with opposition rather than support.

A man who feels that his voice carries little weight eventually begins using it less. A man who believes his concerns will be dismissed eventually stops sharing them. A man who repeatedly experiences conflict whenever he attempts to lead may eventually conclude that the easiest way to preserve peace is to stop pushing altogether. The decision is understandable, but it is also tragic because what appears to solve one problem often creates a much larger one.

The arguments may become less frequent. The conflict may become less visible. The tension may even appear to decrease for a season. Yet something important has been lost. The father has begun withdrawing from the very role he was created to fulfill, and the family often fails to recognize what is happening until much later.

This becomes even more dangerous because the children are watching the entire process unfold. They may not understand the discouragement that produced it. They do not know the years of frustration that came before it. All they see is the result. They notice that Dad no longer speaks up the way he once did. They notice that he no longer pushes for family studies, fights for standards, or seems as invested in the direction of the household. What they are witnessing is the harvest, but they never saw the years of sowing that produced it.

As a result, many fathers are judged by the final stage of a process that began long before anyone noticed. The silence becomes the focus while the discouragement that produced the silence remains invisible. The withdrawal becomes the focus while the years of resistance that produced the withdrawal are forgotten.

Satan understands this better than most people do. 1 Peter 5:8 (KJV) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

He knows that a discouraged leader can be just as vulnerable as an absent one. In some ways, the situation is even more dangerous because the father remains physically present. He sits in the same room, attends the same gatherings, and lives under the same roof, yet the confidence necessary for leadership has been steadily weakening for years.

From the outside the family may appear intact, but internally something vital has been deteriorating. By the time people begin asking what happened, the damage has often been developing for a very long time. The answer is rarely found in one dramatic moment. It is usually found in hundreds of smaller moments, hundreds of conversations, disappointments, and missed opportunities where encouragement could have strengthened leadership but repeated opposition weakened it instead.

By the time the consequences become visible, the confidence that once motivated the husband to lead may already be severely wounded. A wounded leader rarely stops leading all at once. More often, he simply leads a little less each year until one day everyone notices that the man who once worked so hard to guide his family no longer seems to have much of a voice within it.

WHEN INFLUENCE REPLACES LEADERSHIP

Influence is one of the most powerful forces within a family. While authority may be connected to a position, influence is earned and maintained through daily interaction, trust, example, consistency, and credibility. A father may occupy the role of head of the household, but if his influence begins to diminish, his position alone cannot preserve the direction of the family.

Satan understands this distinction well. If he cannot remove the father from the home, he often works to weaken the father's influence within it. This process rarely occurs through a single event or dramatic confrontation. More often, it develops gradually through countless small moments that appear insignificant when viewed individually but become powerful when repeated over time.

Children are constantly observing the relationships around them. They pay attention to how their parents interact, how disagreements are handled, and whether the adults leading the household move together or against one another. Although children may not fully understand every conflict they witness, they are learning from those experiences nonetheless. Over time, they begin forming conclusions about leadership, authority, and family life based upon what they repeatedly observe.

One of the most important lessons children learn is identifying which voices carry the greatest influence within the home. They notice whose convictions are consistently supported and whose are regularly challenged. They notice which standards are followed and which are treated as optional. They observe whose guidance shapes the direction of the family and whose guidance is frequently resisted or ignored.

This becomes particularly important when husband and wife begin moving in different directions. A father may believe certain priorities should guide the family while the mother believes something different. One parent may emphasize spiritual growth,

discipline, and family direction while the other places greater importance on different goals or values. Neither situation develops overnight, yet when competing priorities become a consistent part of family life, children are inevitably affected by them.

Rather than receiving one clear direction, children find themselves exposed to multiple directions. Instead of learning what it means to follow unified leadership, they begin learning how to navigate competing influences. In many cases, they adapt to whichever influence appears strongest, most appealing, or least demanding. This adaptation is not usually a deliberate act of rebellion. It is simply the natural response of children attempting to function within the environment surrounding them.

As this pattern continues, the household may begin experiencing a subtle but important shift. The issue is no longer merely disagreement between husband and wife. The issue becomes influence. The father's convictions gradually become viewed as his personal convictions rather than the convictions of the family. His direction becomes his preferred direction rather than the family's shared direction. Over time, the children may begin associating themselves more closely with one influence than the other, often without recognizing the significance of what is taking place.

What makes this process so dangerous is that it frequently remains hidden beneath the surface. From the outside, the family may appear healthy and intact. Everyone still lives together. Responsibilities are still being fulfilled. Meals are still shared and family activities continue. Yet beneath those outward appearances, the household is no longer moving together toward a common destination.

This often creates confusion within the home. Children begin receiving different messages about what truly matters. They observe different priorities being modeled by the people they trust most. As a result, they may struggle to determine which direction

genuinely represents the direction of the family. The confusion is not always obvious during childhood, but its effects often become more visible as the years pass.

Satan has always used confusion as an effective weapon because confusion weakens clarity, conviction, and unity. A child raised within a united household generally knows what the family believes, where the family is going, and what principles guide its decisions. 1 Corinthians 14:33 (KJV) "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace..."

A child raised within a divided household is often left sorting through competing messages and competing examples. Instead of receiving one clear path, they learn how to navigate multiple paths at the same time.

The tragedy is that many families do not recognize what is happening until years later. By the time the consequences become visible, the transfer of influence has often been occurring for a long time. Long before children choose a path for themselves, they have spent years learning whom they trust, whom they follow, and which voices carry the greatest influence in their lives. When influence begins replacing leadership, the foundation of the household is already starting to shift, even if nobody has recognized it yet.

What makes this process particularly deceptive is that influence often shifts long before authority does. The father may still hold the title. He may still occupy the position of head of the household. He may still be the primary provider and decision maker. Yet children eventually reveal where influence truly resides through whose convictions they embrace, whose priorities they adopt, and whose direction they ultimately choose to follow. Authority may remain visible for years after influence has already begun disappearing beneath the surface.

THE SILENT SURRENDER OF A FATHER

Most fathers do not stop leading because they stop caring. In many cases, the opposite is true. The men who eventually become quiet are often the same men who once cared deeply about the direction of their families. They wanted to provide stability, establish purpose, protect their children, and leave behind something meaningful. What changed was not necessarily their love for their family. What changed was their confidence that their efforts were making a difference.

When a man first begins leading his family, he usually believes that his involvement matters. He believes his decisions can help guide the household, that his convictions can shape the future of his children, and that his efforts will contribute to building something lasting. Because of that belief, he continues investing his time, energy, and attention into the family. He speaks when concerns arise, attempts to establish direction, and works to address problems before they become larger.

The difficulty arises when those efforts are consistently met with resistance. A father can endure disagreement. He can endure occasional conflict. He can even endure failure. What becomes far more difficult is spending years in an environment where nearly every attempt at leadership produces frustration, opposition, or discouragement. Over time, repeated resistance begins affecting the way he views his role within the home.

The change rarely occurs all at once. At first, he continues speaking, explaining, and attempting to lead. When those efforts fail, he tries different approaches. He becomes more patient, more careful, and more deliberate. Yet if the outcome remains largely unchanged, discouragement slowly begins taking root. The issue is no longer whether he knows what should be done. The issue becomes whether he believes his efforts will accomplish anything.

As discouragement grows, many fathers begin protecting themselves from further disappointment. Subjects that once seemed important become subjects they no longer raise.

Conversations that once felt necessary become conversations they quietly avoid. Convictions remain, but the willingness to continually defend those convictions begins fading. This does not always happen because the father has changed his beliefs. More often, it happens because experience has convinced him that the result will be the same regardless of what he says.

This stage is often misunderstood by everyone around him. Family members may assume he has become passive, indifferent, or uninvolved. They see the silence but not the years that produced it. They see the withdrawal but not the countless disappointments that preceded it. What appears to be a lack of concern is often the result of accumulated discouragement rather than a lack of love.

Children frequently misunderstand this process as well. They notice that their father no longer speaks as strongly as he once did. They notice that he no longer pushes for certain standards or insists on certain priorities. What they do not see are the years of effort that came before. They are witnessing the final stage of a process without understanding how the process began.

One of the greatest dangers of discouragement is that it often creates the appearance of peace. Arguments become less frequent. Disagreements become less visible. Tension may even seem reduced for a season. Yet the apparent peace can be misleading because the underlying issues have not been resolved. Instead, one person has simply stopped fighting for what he once believed was important.

Satan knows the value of this outcome. A father who remains hopeful and engaged continues influencing the direction of his family. A father who has become discouraged is far easier to

neutralize. The household may still appear stable from the outside, but one of its primary sources of leadership has already begun withdrawing from the struggle.

The tragedy is that many fathers never consciously decide to surrender. They simply become exhausted. After years of carrying responsibilities, enduring conflict, and watching influence gradually disappear, they stop believing that continued effort will produce meaningful change. Little by little, they speak less, push less, and expect less.

By the time the consequences become visible, the process has often been unfolding for years. The father remains present within the home, yet his influence is greatly diminished. His voice is quieter than it once was, his expectations are lower, and his involvement is reduced. What began as discouragement has become withdrawal, and what began as withdrawal will soon begin affecting the next generation.

The children are still watching. They are still learning. And the lessons they absorb during this season may remain with them long after the reasons behind it have been forgotten.

THE LIES THAT KEEP THE DIVISION ALIVE

John 8:44 (KJV) When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

One reason division survives for so many years within a household is because the people involved gradually begin believing explanations that justify it. What once troubled the conscience eventually becomes familiar. What once seemed dangerous eventually appears normal. Over time, the family adapts to conditions that should have been confronted long ago.

A wife may convince herself that public opposition carries no lasting consequences because she is merely expressing disagreement. A husband may convince himself that speaking up serves no purpose because nothing ever changes. Children may learn to follow whichever voice best aligns with their desires rather than learning how to discern truth. Each person sees only a portion of the problem while remaining blind to the larger consequences.

Perhaps the most dangerous lie is the belief that division is normal. Once a family accepts division as ordinary, it stops fighting against it. What should have been corrected becomes tolerated. What should have been healed becomes managed. The household learns how to function within the division rather than confronting the division itself.

This is precisely where Satan wants a family to remain. As long as division feels normal, very few people will recognize the need for restoration. As long as discouragement feels permanent, few will continue fighting for unity. As long as people believe the damage is inevitable, they stop seeking solutions. The family continues drifting while convincing itself that nothing else is possible. Yet division is never healed by pretending it does not exist. Before a family can restore what has been damaged, it must first be honest about what has been lost.

THE HARVEST OF DIVISION

Galatians 6:7-8 (KJV) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

One of the most deceptive aspects of family division is that its consequences are rarely immediate. If every harmful choice produced instant results, most people would recognize the danger much sooner and change course before significant damage occurred. Instead, many of the effects remain hidden for years, quietly developing beneath the surface while life appears to continue as normal.

Satan's greatest advantage in this battle is patience. Most families evaluate problems according to what they can see today. Satan evaluates them according to what they may produce twenty years from now. He understands that a single disagreement may accomplish little, but thousands of similar moments repeated over years can reshape the direction of an entire family. While parents focus on today's conflict, he is already looking toward tomorrow's harvest.

This is one reason families often underestimate the seriousness of what is taking place within the home. The children are still young. Everyone still lives together. Family gatherings continue. Responsibilities are being fulfilled. Because no obvious disaster has occurred, it becomes easy to assume that no lasting damage is being done. Yet some of life's most significant consequences arrive long after the choices that created them.

Children learn far more than most parents realize. While parents often focus on the lessons they intentionally teach, children are also learning from the environment around them. They are observing how authority functions, how disagreements are handled, how commitments are honored, and whether the people leading the household move together or against one another. Over time, these repeated observations become part of their understanding of what family life is supposed to look like.

The influence of these experiences is not always visible during childhood. Most children simply accept what they observe as normal. They rarely stop to analyze the patterns around them because those patterns have become familiar. Yet familiarity has a powerful effect. What feels normal during childhood often becomes normal during adulthood.

This helps explain why the consequences of family division frequently extend beyond a single generation. A child who repeatedly observes authority being challenged may struggle with authority later in life. A child raised in an environment of competing loyalties may find it difficult to maintain unity within future relationships. A child who spends years watching division may eventually begin viewing division as an unavoidable part of family life.

The tragedy is that these lessons are often passed forward unintentionally. Parents rarely set out to teach confusion, discouragement, or division. Yet the atmosphere of a home can communicate lessons that no parent ever intended to teach. Over time, those lessons become deeply rooted and begin influencing future decisions, future relationships, and future families.

As the years pass, the harvest gradually becomes visible. Children establish households of their own. Marriages are formed. Grandchildren are raised. The values, priorities, and examples absorbed during childhood begin appearing in the next generation. What was once observed often becomes what is repeated.

A son who spent years watching leadership associated with conflict and resistance may struggle to lead confidently within his own home. Even if he sincerely desires to lead, his past experiences may cause him to hesitate whenever opposition appears. Likewise, a daughter who spent years observing division and competing influences may enter marriage carrying assumptions about authority, commitment, and family structure that were formed long before she realized it.

Many parents reach this stage carrying a profound sense of loss. They remember the sacrifices they made, the responsibilities they carried, and the hopes they held for the future. They remember believing they were building something that would continue long after they were gone. Then one day they look around and discover that many of the people they love most have chosen paths very different from the ones they hoped to leave behind.

The deepest pain is often not that those paths are different. The deeper pain comes from realizing that the separation did not happen overnight. The signs were present years earlier. The lessons were being taught years earlier. The division was developing years earlier. What appeared insignificant at the time eventually produced consequences that could no longer be ignored.

This is one reason Scripture places such importance upon unity within the home. Unity is not merely about avoiding arguments or maintaining peace. It provides clarity and consistency for the next generation. Children benefit when they understand what their family believes, what principles guide its decisions, and what direction it is attempting to follow. When that clarity disappears, confusion often takes its place.

Confusion rarely remains isolated. It affects convictions, relationships, priorities, and future decisions. Those effects do not disappear when children become adults. In many cases, they follow them into future marriages, future families, and future generations.

No one better than Satan knows the value of patience. While families often focus on today's disagreements, he is looking years into the future. He understands that small compromises, repeated often enough, can reshape an entire family line. What appears insignificant today may become enormously significant decades later.

The sobering reality is that many of the consequences experienced in one generation were set in motion long before anyone recognized where they would lead. In the same way, many of the choices being made today are already shaping the experiences of future generations.

The battle for the household has never been merely about the present. It is about the legacy that remains after the children are grown, after the parents are older, and after the years that once seemed ordinary have finally passed away.

By the time the harvest arrives, the seeds that produced it are often forgotten.

The harvest, however, never forgets where it came from.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Throughout this study, one theme has appeared repeatedly: the battle for the family is often a battle for influence. The consequences discussed in these pages rarely develop overnight, nor do they usually begin with dramatic acts of rebellion. More often, they emerge through patterns that are repeated so gradually that few people recognize their significance while they are occurring.

Children are shaped by the environment in which they are raised. They learn from what they observe, from the relationships around them, and from the examples that are consistently placed before them. Over time, those observations contribute to their understanding of leadership, authority, commitment, unity, and family life. Many of the lessons that shape a child's future are never formally taught. They are absorbed through years of daily experience.

For that reason, the condition of a household cannot be measured solely by outward appearances. A family may appear stable while important influences are quietly shifting beneath the surface. Likewise, a family facing difficulties today may still be laying a foundation that produces strength, unity, and stability in future years. The most important developments within a home are often the ones that remain unseen until much later.

The purpose of this study has not been to assign blame or oversimplify the challenges that families face. Rather, it has been to examine how influence develops within the home, how division affects that influence, and how those effects often extend beyond a single generation. What begins as a pattern between parents can eventually shape the attitudes, beliefs, and relationships of children who carry those lessons into adulthood.

Throughout history, families have played a central role in preserving values, convictions, traditions, and faith from one generation to the next. For that reason, the health of a household

cannot be measured only by its present condition. It must also be evaluated by the direction in which it is moving and the legacy it is creating for those who will follow.

The questions raised throughout this study deserve careful consideration. The answers are not found in emotion, tradition, personal preference, or cultural expectations. They require honest examination, thoughtful reflection, and a willingness to compare what is taking place within the home against the principles established by God.

The future of a family is often shaped long before that future arrives. The attitudes encouraged today, the examples demonstrated today, and the influences strengthened today frequently become the foundation upon which future generations build their own homes and relationships.

For that reason, the subjects examined in this study are not merely about the present generation. They are also about the generations that will follow.

Yet it is important to remember that the household Satan fears most is not the perfect household. Such a household does not exist. Every marriage experiences difficulties. Every family faces struggles. Every parent makes mistakes. The household Satan fears most is the one that remains united despite those imperfections.

It is the home where husband and wife refuse to become enemies. It is the home where disagreements do not become permanent divisions. It is the home where children are not forced to choose between competing loyalties. It is the home where both parents remain committed to moving in the same direction even when the path becomes difficult. It is the ones that screams “

Satan does not fear perfection because perfection cannot be found among men. He fears unity. He fears households that recognize the battle taking place around them and refuse to cooperate with it.

The enemy was never supposed to be sitting across the dinner table. The enemy was never supposed to be sleeping in the same bed. The enemy was never supposed to be one of the people we love. The true enemy is the one who benefits whenever unity is replaced by division, whenever influence is weakened, and whenever the next generation is left confused about the path they should follow.

Such households are dangerous to Satan because they refuse to participate in their own destruction.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (KJV) Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow...

And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

God did not establish the family so that its members would work against one another. He established it so they would strengthen one another, support one another, and walk together according to His ways. Satan seeks division because division weakens what God intended to be strong.

Colossians 3:12-14 (KJV) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any... And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

The preservation of a family requires more than good intentions. It requires humility, forgiveness, patience, and love. These are the very qualities God commands His people to put on if they are to walk together in peace and unity.

FINAL EXHORTATION

Satan seeks division.

God calls His people to unity.

Satan seeks confusion.

God is the author of peace.

Therefore, guard your marriage, strengthen your family, and protect the covenant order God established within the home.

For what one generation preserves, the next generation may inherit.

PROTECT WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU

If this study has helped you recognize the importance of unity within the home, do not allow these truths to remain only on these pages.

Strong families do not happen by accident. They are built intentionally through love, respect, forgiveness, patience, and obedience to God's design.

Take time to examine your own household.

- Are husband and wife walking together in the same direction?
 - Are unity and respect being protected?
- What lessons are children learning from what they observe every day?
 - Is God's order being strengthened or weakened within the home?

The enemy works tirelessly to divide what God intended to be united. Recognizing the danger is the first step toward protecting those you love.

SHARE THIS STUDY

Many families are facing struggles they do not fully understand.

Consider sharing this booklet with:

- Husbands seeking to lead their families faithfully
 - Wives desiring stronger unity within the home
 - Parents concerned about the spiritual direction of their children
 - Anyone seeking to understand God's design for the family
- A truth that strengthens a family should never be hidden.

CONTINUE GROWING

Additional Bible studies examining marriage, family, discipleship, obedience, and Christian living are available at:
<https://zionsroar.org/biblical-studies>

NEED HELP?

You do not have to face these challenges alone.
If you have questions, need guidance, or would like to study these subjects further, reach out to us.

We would be honored to study the Scriptures with you and encourage you in strengthening your home according to God's Word.

A family united in God's truth becomes far more difficult for the enemy to divide.

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and calling believers back to the foundation laid by God in Zion, the doctrine of Christ delivered through His apostles.



