

## **Season 2 Goals**

- From the starting point of these premises [below] ...
- Using the approach and various lenses - including common sense - to evaluate the competing views of marriage and family ...
- The goal for Season 2 will be to arrive at firm answers to four question:
  1. What are the functions - the purposes - of marriage and family ?
  2. What are the essential elements of a man's roles as a husband and father in a healthy marriage and family ?
  3. What specific duties and responsibilities must a man fulfill for his wife and his children ?
  4. What are the implications for a how a man, a couple, and a family thrive in the context of their extended family, community, and society at large ?

## **Approach [How]**

- There is a fair amount of advice out there for men today; but, the vast majority of it has one or more of the following shortcomings
  - First, It is too ideological - engaged in rhetoric and persuasion, not thoughtful and even handed consideration of issues.
  - Second, It is too trendy - designed to capitalize on the latest fads and get the most clicks on social media by either giving the masses what they want to hear or deliberately triggering people on the other side.
  - Third, it is too niche - it is part of an echochamber where only one perspective is repeated and one set of conclusions is continually justified.
- To offer a meaningful alternative to this content, already out there, the approach on this podcast will be to examine issues and questions through multiple, side-by-side lenses, including:
  - History
  - Anthropology
  - Sociology
  - Survey & Demographic Data; and,

- Ernest consideration of the specific claims and approaches advocated by competing influential voices today - and the worldviews that inspire them.

With this holistic approach, I believe we can arrive at a broadly-acceptable core vision for marriage and family that cultivates human flourishing in a manner compatible with both the best research and common sense.

## **FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES**

1. **Objectivism:**

Reality and truth exist objectively - independent of our individual perceptions, emotions, or imaginations. While people can and do have diverse subjective experiences and beliefs worth consideration, objective reality and truth remains the ultimate measuring stick by which perceptions are evaluated.

2. **Human Nature:**

The essential elements of the human experience are common to all people; and, that diversity is the result of cultural and individual variations built on this shared foundation of human nature. It is *not* the case that cultural or individual diversity are evidence of multiple “human natures” or that no shared foundation exists at all.

3. **Human Flourishing:**

From the preceding concepts of Objectivism and Human Nature flows the idea that the essential elements of Human Flourishing are objective realities common to all people. This means that what is good for us and what goods we should pursue are for us to *discover*, not for us to *invent*.

4. **Structuralism:**

Structuralism - the sociological and anthropological school of thought - posits that

- human institutions can only be meaningfully understood through their relationships to other institutions. For example, the institution of marriage and the institution of family shed light on one another. Similarly, the institution of the nuclear family is better understood in the contexts of both the extended family and the geographic community than it can be understood in a vacuum.
- And, ultimately, all these institutions are shaped by human nature; and
- the function or dysfunction of these institutions are evaluated against whether they cultivate human flourishing.

## FAMILY

A group of people who

- share resources (emotional, material, and financial)
    - in order to provide for the flourishing of their members -
      - helping them to progress through Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs,
      - ultimately achieving Self-Actualization
  - while simultaneously contributing to the well-being of
    - neighboring families,
    - their community,
    - society at large, and
    - future families (progeny [specifically] & posterity [generally])
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## MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

### **Self-actualization**

desire to become the most that one can be

### **Esteem**

respect, self-esteem, status, recognition, strength, freedom

### **Love and belonging**

friendship, intimacy, family, sense of connection

### **Safety needs**

personal security, employment, resources, health, property

### **Physiological needs**

air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction

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## **MARRIAGE**

A life-long contract establishing

- mutual support and enrichment
  - sexual exclusivity
  - intention to jointly
    - cultivate a well-functioning family
    - bring-up children
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