



# Thinking Like a Christian April-June 2021

## To a Thousand Generations: Thinking Christianly about life, love & family

1	You and your children	25 <sup>th</sup> April
	<i>No TLC</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> May
2	Created male and female to multiply	9 <sup>th</sup> May
3	Church: blessing to a thousand generations	16 <sup>th</sup> May
4	Physical family, Spiritual family	23 <sup>rd</sup> May
5	An orientation in orientation	30 <sup>th</sup> May
6	Singleness, marriage and everything in between	6 <sup>th</sup> June
7	Man of God, woman of God	13 <sup>th</sup> June
8	You and your children	20 <sup>th</sup> June



# 1. You and your children

*Smurfette: 'Papa, every year, on my birthday, I have these horrible dreams about where I come from. And it makes me wonder – who – I – really – am'.*

*Papa Smurf: 'And every year I remind you: it doesn't matter where you came from. What matters is, who you choose to be.'*

*Labour's idea of family is three people sharing a fridge. (Michael Farmer, Tory donor, before 2010 election)*

*'And we bring you the good news that what god promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.' (Paul, Acts 13:32)*

Possibly the strangest feature of our world is the belief that we are all individuals, for whom our parents are an irrelevance, our children are a lifestyle choice, and our spouse(s) is just someone with whom we temporarily share a fridge and, presumably, a bed. It is safe to say that no other culture in the history of the world has thought anything remotely similar.

Many people think that Christian discussion of family is limited to just a few arbitrary rules about sex. The reality is that the Bible gives us a wholly different understanding of what it means to be human. Generations – life, love and family – are central to who we are and what God has made us and saved us for.

## 1. Who does God save?

Sinners? Yes... but better to say, God saves sinful *families*.

Acts 2:39: 'To you and your children'

which was put directly into practice in Acts: 16:15; 30-34

Jesus: Luke 18:15-17

Peter didn't invent this phrase: Genesis 17:7-8; 22:17-18

Ten Commandments (Exodus 20): C2, C5

Deuteronomy 6:1-3, 20-25

*Who will our sons think God gave commandments to (v20)?*

*When we answer, who are we to say God gave commandments to (v25)?*

Why does God do this? Why save families, not individuals?

## 2. Who did God create?

Genesis 1:27-28      Blessing and Multiplication

Genesis 2:4          Generations

Genesis 3:20        Adam's wife's name

Genesis 5:1          Generations of Adam... is this a good or a bad thing?

It is part of the very nature of man that we inherit what we are from our parents, and we pass what we are on to our children.

### 3. How does sin spread?

Genesis 5:5,8,11,14,17,20,27,31

Romans 5:12-17      What effect has Adam's sin had on his descendants?  
Is this fair?

The hereditary principle applies whether or not we want it to!

Because we are generational creatures. We cannot undo that, we can only pass on our ruin.

Remember the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment: the sins of the fathers

Even those who don't keep the 5th commandment imitate their parents and pass on their sins to their children: hate your parents, your children will hate you.

This is very very relevant in a world where rejecting what our forefathers believed has become a point of principle!

We all have inherited the guilt, and the sin, of Adam

### 4. So who does God save?

A: God saves families. You and your children. Your (Christian) parents and you

When God brings salvation into the world, he breaks the power of sin. That's both the guilt of each individual before God, but also the enslaving power of sin which cascades down the generations. And in its place, he promises a blessing which will cascade down the generations.

What we need to learn:

- Stop thinking of yourself as a standalone individual. You are the child of your parents and the parent of your (future) children. We are who we are because of our place in the generations of mankind.

Think of your Christmas jumper...

- Stop thinking of yourself as someone other than the children of your parents.

If they're not Christians

If they are Christians

- Stop thinking of yourself as bound to the sins of your parents

But only Christ can break the chain

And he will

- Stop thinking of your salvation as just your salvation

Multiplication is a blessing; God promises blessing to your multiples!

*Questions*