*Creation Principle One...* God made men and women in his image. God made man as a leader and woman as a helper (both reflect the glory of God... both are equal in the sight of God). They were created with the ability to communicate and reproduce through sexual union... sexual activity is sacred (according to God's law) and reserved for married couples alone. Men and women are created with specific roles and purposes... when these are breeched, problems follow.

*Creation Principle Two...* God created men and women to be divided into family units. God identified himself as our father and made it clear that we would be bound to one partner and produce children... just as he had done. Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

The theme of family relationships is particularly prominent in Paul's First Letter to Timothy. Paul repeatedly highlights the analogy of a family in order to enable Timothy better to understand the correct order and responsibilities within the Christian church. Paul calls Timothy his "son," expressing both his affection and the disciplining relationship between them (1Timothy 1:2,18). He advises Timothy to treat an older man as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters (1Timothy 5:1-2). If a widow has children or grandchildren, they should look after her (1Timothy 5:4). But if the immediate family is lacking, the larger Christian family should care for her (1Timothy 5:5,16). This includes mentoring her children when male role models are not in the family home.

**Failing One...** Men are more than willing to allow women to take the lead in spiritual matters. Adam was with Eve when she spoke to the serpent (Genesis 3:6 'who was with her') and the man stood silently by while allowing Eve to make the spiritual decisions. This ended their covenant arrangement with God. This is a weakness IN MEN, not women. God being well aware of this male tendency to avoid spiritual matters, reserves certain activities in the church for men only... forcing them to engage with the church and God. Failure to appreciate these truths also ends our covenant with God.

**Failing Two...** God made women attractive to men (the first thing they became aware of after they ate the fruit was they were naked... their sexual characteristics were awakened), also, like the trees in the garden, he could not partake of a fruit that was not blessed by God. Likewise, in principle we are not permitted to enjoy the fruits of any other woman... visually or physically, unless they are our marriage partner... (Genesis 3:3 Ye shall not eat (the fruit) of it, neither shall ye touch it... Proverbs 5:5 Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well... Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge).

**Solution One...** Men need to initiate family fellowship, family prayer life, supervise children's social commitments... honour all God given responsibilities through the power of the holy spirit. Eph 5:25-28 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

**Solution Two...** JAM 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Temptations have to be stopped before they start... this minimises sinful behaviour. Commitment to spiritual responsibilities minimises temptations and minimises sin at the same time. Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

**Results of a survey of Swiss churches...** Father’s Influence on their children.

*Father regularly attends fellowship, regardless of the practice of the mother... 66-75% remain in fellowship.*
*Father irregularly attends fellowship, regardless of the practice of the mother... 50-66% remain in fellowship.*
*No father in the fellowship, but fully supportive mother... 2% children will remain in fellowship as adults.*

These results are eye opening, but not be surprising. You cannot fight the biology of the created order.

**Loving and serving your wife and family...** there is no rocket science involved. Do what you know is right... take responsibility and lead. Earn the respect of your family by actions... not by verbal orders. Your children need male leadership... they need male role models... they need motivation to develop... they need to see rewards. More than anything... they need to see stability. You need to see the Lord... he has promised to give you the power to get the job done.