

Book Review

The Truth About the Family: Biblical Patterns and Principles

Vernell Ingle

Joplin, MO: Messenger Publishing House, 2005. 192 pages.

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God has not left us adrift in a hopelessly turbulent sea merely hoping that the good ship named “Family” will sail by, hoist us aboard and shelter us in its hold. Rather, he has given us firm footing on a craggy headland by providing numerous patterns for these most important and significant human relationships.

Vernell Ingle, in his book *The Truth about the Family*, reminds us of God's patterns for the family recorded in His Word. Ingle has been a true and faithful steward of the Word of God by anchoring the foundation for the family in the doctrine of God. He follows his description of the love of God as a key to meaningful relationships with five chapters that describe biblical patterns for Christians living in relationships. Anyone wanting to gain an understanding about the unique blessing of the Christian family will benefit by a careful reading of this book.

The Truth About the Family does not flinch at family dysfunction, but uses biblical accounts as examples of how families go astray. This is then counteracted by images of family health as outlined in seven elements. Next, family communication is drawn out and highlighted as a crucial aspect of family success.

Again, with boldness Ingle addresses the forbidden, and often forsaken, topic of marital sexual relationships as God's wedding gift. The topic of family finance is next placed in the mix of focused teachings on aspects of family health. The inclusion of a chapter on family finances is wise since money problems are significantly correlated with marital distress and ultimate dissolution. The book ends with a chapter that addresses a myriad of marital and family problems existing in the new millennium; however, it ends with a gracious call to demonstrate compassion without compromise in ministering to contemporary families.

Thank you, Vernell Ingle, for your contribution to family health and success, both within the church and within the culture the church serves.