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Problems of Society Growing As Family Life Slips in America

In our nation's capital last year, there were more abortions than births and more children were born out of wedlock than in families.

This circumstance is not surprising. It is the natural born offspring of a permissive society that has spread the seed of immorality and irresponsibility throughout the land.

On his 90th birthday this year, philosopher Will Durant said: "The family has gone to pieces and marriage has gone, too. This is unfortunate because they are two marvelous forms of order that can be pillars of strength in the flux of modern life. If you get rid of the state, the family can maintain order. But if you get rid of the family, you have nothing."

Former Congressman Lyle H. Boren told the writer: "Destruction of the family unit is going to destroy our country."

In a recent issue of The Messenger, Anson Justice, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, pointed out the divine nature of the home, as an institution of God.

"The home is being assaulted today as never before," Justice wrote. "Government agencies, political parties, movements of all kinds, many of them representing themselves as friends of the home, align themselves for its dissolution."

"Every effort is being made to separate the home from its Maker. Every kind of gimmick, every socialistic philosophy, every Satanic religion is geared to the destruction of man's most precious possession, the home."

Justice asserted that the home is

basically a religious institution, with biblical laws set out for its guidance.

Last spring, a national survey showed an overwhelming 92 per cent of Americans ranked home as their most important personal value. Work came in second, followed by education, self-fulfillment, financial security, religion and other values.

When the basic unit of society is shaky, other phases of life and freedom are in danger. Much of the crime, drug taking and violent behavior of young people has been attributed to widespread collapse of family structures and the home.

Forced busing of children to schools has accelerated decline of neighborhoods, an integral part of good home life that is in danger of destruction. Many landlords refuse to rent to families with children. Some restaurants prefer adults only.

Over 11 million children, about one-sixth of all under 18, live in 5 million single parent homes. Mothers of small children often find it necessary to work outside the home and others do so to afford their families higher standards of living.

This has resulted in establishment of substitute homes called day care centers. In turn, this has opened the way for government participation in child rearing through subsidization and attempted control by bureaucrats. Child raising is the responsibility of the family; not of the government or society in general.

Reform needed in our national morality and in our home life will not originate in Washington. Responsible parenthood and proper child training must begin in the home.