



The Decomposition of Family



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Figures and statistics are indeed eloquent in loudly mourning the death of family. Divorces, spouse, child and parental abuses are some of the many symptoms of this decomposition.

Is it too late to save the family? Can the husband reconcile with his wife when he is already involved with another woman? Can the father be responsible for his children when he is too busy making money? Can the children respect their parents when they are too concerned with their immediate pleasure? Family values have become a virtue to sneer

at or to disparage.

A rabbi and a Christian counselor have joined their call in this special issue of "Family," echoing the old biblical ideal for life and happiness. This call must be heard if we want to survive as human beings. The ancient sages warned us about it: "If a man sins against those of his own household, he will inevitably come to sin against his neighbor" (*Tanna de-ben Elyahu*, 289). In this question, it is not just a few humans that are threatened, it is our society, the survival of mankind that is at stake.