

THE IDEAL FAMILY
Figuring Out Family – Part 1

Key Observations About Family:

1. We didn't have any choice. You can pick your friends, but not your **FAMILY**.
2. No one you are related to is as **SMART** as you are.

Key Truth #1: When Jesus went to the cross, he died for all men, women, and children **EQUALLY**.

"1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise..." Ephesians 6:1-2 (NIV)

"18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them." Colossians 3:18-19 (NIV)

"Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged." Colossians 3:21 (NIV)

"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers." 1 Peter 3:7 (NIV)

Summary Statements

- Husbands: **LOVE** your wives and be **CONSIDERATE**.
- Wives: **SUBMIT** to your husbands.
- Children: **OBEY** your parents.
- Fathers: don't **AGGRAVATE** your children

Key Truth #2: Jesus constantly **POINTED** people in the direction of what seemed to be an unattainable ideal and yet He didn't **CONDEMN** them when they fell short.

"27 You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Matthew 5:27-28

"3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?' 4 'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female, 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.' 7 'Why then,' they asked, 'did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?' 8 Jesus replied, 'Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning'." Matthew 19:3-8 (NIV)

Key Truth #3: There is a tension that **GRACE** and **TRUTH** create that we must embrace. It is a tension that we dare not resolve because our family depends upon it.

Key Question: Will we **EMBRACE** a standard that many of us have fallen short of, or will we redefine the terms of what God wants so that we can **FEEL** better about where we are?