

Find Your Seat: **Together at the Table**

June 3 & 4, 2023

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Philippians 2:1-4 | ¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

BIG IDEA: Unity is the key to a healthy family.

1. A unified family shares a common VISION. (v.2)

1 Corinthians 14:8 | Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?

2. Unity requires SELFLESSNESS without losing your sense of SELF.

3. Unity is made easier by CONNECTION. (v.4)

NEXT STEP: Sign up for a Dinner for 8 group.

Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

What were family dinners like for you growing up? What are they like in your home now? Do you eat together regularly? Are there distractions at the table? What would they look like ideally?

Quick Review:

Was there anything about this week's message that was surprising to you? Was there a specific point or Scripture that made you want to elbow the person sitting next to you? Or maybe made them want to elbow you? What was the one thing you remember most from the message?

Digging Deeper:

Read **Genesis 2:18-25**

Genesis 2:18-25 | ¹⁸ The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹ Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." ²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

This can be a touchy subject for some, but what does the Bible say about the new family dynamics when a man and wife are married? Why do you think God designed it this way? Have you ever seen conflict when it is not quite done this way?

Read **Romans 15:1-6**

Romans 15:1-6 | ¹ We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. ⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the ultimate reason we are to be united as families and as a church? How well do you do at attempting to "live in harmony with each other?"

Application:

Living unified or in harmony with others requires a great deal of effort and sacrifice. Identify one to three places in your life where you need to do better at these things. Share with your group how you can improve in this area.

Jesus, make clear to me where I am not creating or pursuing unity and harmony in my relationships. Help me be self-aware and have the courage to change my behaviors. Create a spirit of unity within all of my relationships both in me and in the other people involved.