



LIFE ON PURPOSE – God’s Purpose for Your Family

What was your favorite memory with your family as a child?

Colossians 3:18-21 NIV

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Pain and struggles, a lack of clarity, and our own family of origin issues all work together to shape the way we understand what family is supposed to be. What had the greatest effect on you?

How did your view of family differ from the Biblical view?

Read: Ephesians 5:17-21, Ephesians 5:31-33

How do these passages help us “reflect” Christ to the world around us?

Dr. Emerson Eggerichs speaks of the “Crazy Cycle.” Its premise is that without love, the wife reacts without respect. Without respect, the husband reacts without love. What effect does this have on a family?

How does God’s call for all of us to submit one to another out of reverence to Christ (Eph. 5:21) help us break this cycle?

Read: Romans 8:5, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Hebrews 10:24-25, Proverbs 18:21

What does it mean to “live according to Christ” in marriage?

The way to break the “crazy cycle” is to love first. Why is it so hard to put that into action at times?

Submitting one to another means, being the first to love our spouses in the way they receive it. How do we figure that out? What role does grace play in that process?

Withholding forgiveness doesn’t protect your heart it isolates you from intimacy. How did you learn to forgive?

The power of encouraging words cannot be overstated. What was the last meaningful compliment you paid someone? How did it affect them? How did it affect you?

Read: Deuteronomy 6:6-9

How easy is it for you to talk about faith with other people? What is your biggest challenge?

What is the most important influence on a child’s faith?

Passing on faith is important for all of us to do. How are you (or how could you be), working to build the faith of someone younger than you?

How can we pray for one another tonight?