

Creating a Family Team Environment: The Ideal and the Obstacles – Danny Dunn & Paul Kidd

God's design for a Family team can be a challenge as each member brings internal strengths and weaknesses. Accepting that challenge is well worth it!

Session Notes

The ideal - "I pray that they would be one..."

The image and likeness of God is best displayed on the earth through God's family relational joining.

Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let **Us** make man in **Our image** (form or likeness), according to **Our likeness** (similitude, figure resembling) ; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) God created man **in His own image**, in **the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** (28) God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

This design of God to reveal Himself through family relationships began at creation & is wrapped up at the great family event that ushers in the final eternal state (The Marriage Supper of the Lamb Revelations 19:7, 21:2, 9)

Jesus walked on this earth in the context of a family team (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Ephesians 1:3, 3:14-15). He came from the heavenly family, walked on the earth in a family, and built family among the twelve. God gave to join with Him (Mark 3:13-35, Luke 8:20-21). Before He left the earth, He prayed three times that the same family team dynamic that is among the Godhead would be among His leaders (John 17:11, 21, 23). In light of this design it is hard to justify His commission if we are unwilling to walk in submission among a family team that He joins you to.

Family/Team leadership is an effort to share influence and authority among a Jesus-centered team. It does not undermine authority, but instead offers it accountability and more well-rounded functions. The pattern in the New Testament church was a plurality of leaders, depending on one another, accountable to one another and submitting to one another for the sake of the mission.

The Obstacle - Separated Sons and Daughters

The ideal of a family team is challenged by our cultural influences, ignorance, and insecurities which all have their root in a lack of Christ centered identity as adopted sons and daughters.

Influences from culture drive our perspective and security as a team member. In more egalitarian cultures the rise of a single individual can be seen as a dangerous event that can lead to abuse. In more independent cultures the rise of an individual can be seen as a threat to the rest of the team's individuality. It is critical to recognize the influence of culture so that it can be subjected to the ideal of scriptures.

Ignorance is perhaps the easiest obstacle to overcome as it simply requires that an open heart be informed of the ideal that is available through and empowered by the Spirit! A brief study of the way Jesus selected, called, walked with, and commissioned His family team will set the sights of the ignorant higher. Although patterns and practices still must be adjusted, this work is often done "on the way" of life as Jesus demonstrated with His disciples.

The single greatest obstacle to family team is the insecurity that each team member brings to the table. Especially in the west, our picture of “family” has drifted from the ideal of scripture. In addition, the whole concept of Fatherhood has been systematically deconstructed leaving the majority of generations being raised without any semblance of a picture of what a loving father looks like. This obstacle cannot be overstated, and we will dig into it in Session 2. For now, let’s look at the ideal:

- **I am more than what I do** - We are made in the image of God and therefore have intrinsic value
- **I am called** - We have works that God has called us to and a Family to be a part of.
- **I am part of the Family** - We are grateful to be a part of the Family regardless of rank/position
- **I am empowered** - We humbly come to Jesus knowing He has made us new.
- **I am imperfect** - We humbly come to Jesus knowing that the work is ongoing, and he is using His family to help make us new.

The goal is the unity described in Jesus high priestly prayer from John 17:20-21

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Ask yourself:

- How is the standard of leadership I have influenced by my culture and experience?
- Am I clear regarding how Jesus led His team from the scriptures and is that my goal?
- How are my insecurities affecting my ability to be a part of the Family Team God has called me to serve?
- How can my leadership create an environment where the team is able to flourish and thrive?