

- 1) How have things gone in applying the “next steps” from the past two messages? (How have you celebrated, prayed for, or loved your family at home and your I.C. family in the past couple weeks? Have you starting working at a family mission statement? Does your IC have a shared purpose and vision?)
- 2) What challenged or encouraged you from this message about “Fighting for your Family”?
- 3) Read Philippians 1:21-30. What words or phrases stand out to you today? How do those words speak to your family (home or IC) situation right now?
- 4) How did your family deal with conflict while you were growing up? What do you tend to do in the midst of conflict with a family member? How do the principles from Philippians 1:21-30 show us how to approach conflict in a Christ-honoring way??
- 5) Read Ephesians 6:10-12. What ways do you see or experience our true opponent (the devil) seeking to break God’s vision for families? What are the primary threats to healthy families today?
- 6) Read Ephesians 6:13-20 where Paul describes the Whole Armour of God. Discuss each piece of armour and what it means to be equipped by each one.
- 7) What is the Good News for people who are currently in difficult family situations right now? How would the reality of who Jesus is, what He’s done, and what He promises bring hope into their situation?

Discuss your next steps as a family and an Impact Community:

Family Action: Have a family discussion and identify and agree on some terms for dealing with conflict in a healthy way.

IC Action: Discuss the possible threats to experiencing “togetherness” in your IC family and make a plan for how you will fight for unity.

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SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

Fighting for the Family

With Aaron Richert

May 28, 2017



Philippians 1:21-30 For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. ²² But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. ²³ I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴ But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

²⁵ Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. ²⁶ And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

²⁷ Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. ²⁸ Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself.

²⁹ For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. ³⁰ We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

Big Idea: Fight FOR your family; not AGAINST it.

How do we fight?

- With an **ATTITUDE: Identifying with JESUS.** (vs. 21-26)

- With a **PERSPECTIVE: As citizens of HEAVEN.** (v. 27a)

- With a **GOAL: UNITY.** (v. 27b)

John 17:21 "I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you."

- With a **STRATEGY: Knowing your OPPONENT.** (v. 28)

Ephesians 6:10-12 "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

- With **PERSEVERANCE: Doing the HARD THINGS required** (vs. 29-30)

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