

How To Deal With Difficult Family Members

Series: How God Changes Our Attitudes

Is there anyone in your family that is difficult for you to get along with?

Do you have a family member (or members) that do not respect you?

What Does The Bible Say?

What can Jesus teach us about not being respected in our family?

4 Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.” (Mark 6:4 NLT)

Are there people in your family that do not respect you?

16 When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. (Luke 4:16 NLT)

28 When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. 29 Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, 30 but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way. (Luke 4:28–30 NLT)

If you are in trouble, are there family members that would not be there for you?

3 and Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! 4 You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!" 5 For even his brothers didn't believe in him. (John 7:3–5 NLT)

Are there people in your family that enjoy making fun of you?

20 One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat. 21 When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said. (Mark 3:20–21 NLT)

Are there people in your family that think you are crazy?

How Can You Obey?

Notice what Jesus did not do:

- 1. He did not try to control His family.**
- 2. He did not let their behavior control Him.**
- 3. He did not try to please them.**

3 The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine." 4 "Dear woman,

that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." 5 But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:3–5 NLT)

You should always respect your family members.

33 Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"

34 Then he looked at those around him and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. 35 Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." (Mark 3:33–35 NLT)

You have to refine who is your family.

17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." (Mark 3:33–35 NLT)

7 Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. (Galatians 4:7 NLT)

Let God give you what your physical family will not give you.

What happened to Jesus' brothers?

- **James became an apostle. (Galatians 1:19)**
- **All the brothers were praying with the disciples. (Acts 1:19)**
- **The brothers became missionaries. (1 Corinthians 9:5)**
- **James and Jude wrote books in the NT.**

Additional Notes:

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

Today's Tough Questions segment comes from the book
McLaughlin, R. (2019). Confronting christianity: 12 hard

questions for the world's largest religion. Wheaton, IL:
Crossway.

Explore:

Jesus' First Rejection at Nazareth

In response, Jesus assaulted their “acceptance” of him: “Jesus said to them, ‘Surely you will quote this proverb to me: “Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your home town what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.” I tell you the truth,’ he continued, ‘no prophet is accepted in his home town’ ” (vv. 23, 24). Jesus said exactly what the pious worshipers, the good people of Nazareth, were thinking. “If he’s a prophet, I’m Isaiah! How about a few tricks? It’s not too much to ask of a real prophet. Blind? Poor? Prisoners? Oppressed? Who does he think he is?”

The fact is, they already had enough evidence to believe in him—the objective evidence of the miracles in Capernaum Jesus

had alluded to. All Galilee, which was only twenty-five by forty miles, was talking about what had happened. Their difficulty in accepting him did not come from the lack of objective evidence.

Hughes, R. K. (1998). Luke: that you may know the truth (p. 143). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Explore:

Jesus' last visit to Nazareth

Robertson, A. T. (2009). A Harmony of the Gospels (Mt 9:27–34). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

Matthew 13:54–58 & Mark 6:1–6 - There is no sufficient occasion to identify this visit to Nazareth with that described by Luke. That was at the very beginning of the great ministry in Galilee, and this is near its close. The details are quite different. It is perfectly natural that after a long interval he should give the Nazarenes another opportunity to hear his teaching, and to

witness miracles, which he would not work for them when demanded, but now voluntarily works in a few cases, so far as their now wonderful unbelief left it appropriate.

Robertson, A. T. (2009). A Harmony of the Gospels (Mt 13:54–58). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

Explore:

All children are embarrassed with their parents at some point in their development. When Jesus' mother and brothers came to him as he taught the crowds, he did not claim them as family.

Rather, he said: “My mother and brothers [and sisters] are those who hear the word of God and do it” (Luke 8:19; Mark 3:31; Matthew 12:46–47). Was Jesus trying to disassociate from them?

Once again, Jesus the Teacher is offering a lesson that is at the heart of the gospel message. Jesus is inviting those who hear and

do the word of God to become members of a newly constructed family.

Stevenson-Moessner, J. (2004). The Hidden Years. Christian History Magazine-Issue 83: Mary in the Imagination of the Church.

Explore:

John 7:1–39

“The Jews” in John always represent Jesus’ enemies. In other words, the religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus. So he stayed away from the high country of Judea and Jerusalem. The intensity continues to escalate as the passage continues. In the second verse we read, “But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near ...” We must grasp the flavor here in order to understand the passage. The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles was a harvest feast. It took place when all of the harvest had been gathered. It was a joyous time of celebration, a very well-

attended festival, for two reasons. It was an exciting festival to attend, and it was one of the three festivals that required the attendance of every Jewish male who lived within twenty miles of Jerusalem.

During the feast great throngs came to town. It was a colorful event. If it were to occur today, we would probably call it the Jerusalem Camping and Recreational Vehicle Convention!

Shelters sprang up in the most unlikely places—on flat rooftops, down dark alleys, even in the courts of the temple—and all of the shelters followed the rabbinical building code. [The walls were extra-thin so that light came through, and the roof had to show enough sky so the stars could be seen, thus reminding the Jews of how they had wandered in the wilderness] and of how God had provided for them.

The feast was a wonderful and festive time. People dressed in their Sabbath best for the week. They called it “the season of our

gladness.” [It was so festive that to Zechariah, it was a symbol of the glorious future of the people of God. In the fourteenth chapter of his book, he wrote of that golden age to come and of a future, universal Feast of Tabernacles.]

Hughes, R. K. (1999). John: that you may believe (p. 212).

Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Question 1 of 5

Why is “passion and perseverance for very long-term goals” more predictive of a person’s success than social intelligence, good looks, health, or IQ?

Question 2 of 5

Why should we not seek revenge?

Question 3 of 5

Why do you think Jesus was not respected in His own family?

Question 4 of 5

Why won't some family members allow other people in the family to grow and develop in the family?

Question 5 of 5

Why should we get our self-worth (our identity in who we are) in how God sees us versus how others in our family see us?