

SERMON SERIES: This Is Us: Our Families

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Key Line

God has a vision for our loved ones, and he puts us together to help us realize that vision in each other's life. Families get healthier as they fight together for the mission of God.

Introduction

In the Church, we are a collection of families, all different from one another.

- Define "family." What constitutes a family?
- Describe your family to one another. Who is in your family? Are you all related biologically?

There are no perfect families. All families are dysfunctional in different ways.

- Tell a few examples of Bible families who were dysfunctional. *(Any of them mentioned in the Bible will fit this description.)*

Seek the Word

Read Colossians 3:18-21.

- How did the culture of the early Christians treat women? *(They were not valued. Women and children were commodities.)*
- When Paul said that wives should submit themselves to their husbands in verse 18, what did he mean? *(The husbands were supposed to lead their families in a godly way. Because of that, women were supposed to align themselves with the mission of God for their families.)* **Practically speaking, this means wives telling their husbands, "I know the pressure that's on you as a man, and I want to come alongside you and carry this burden with you."
- What does this verse mean for men? *(They should lead their families the way that God wants them to. They will not disrespect their wives or treat them badly.)*
- When Paul says that men should love their wives and not be harsh with them, why was this revolutionary in this time? *(Women were not valued, so men did not care for and about their wives.)* **In an everyday way, this means helping her in her work, sharing the burden of caring for children and a home and working outside the home.
- In verse 20, Paul tells children to obey their parents. What does honoring parents have to do with a child's relationship with God? *(Obeying parents is a way of*

obeying God. It shows a willingness to follow God's plan since he has given parents to children to guide them.)

- Read verse 21. How should fathers treat their children? *(They should love their children and not make them bitter by treating them harshly.)*
- Why do you think the Bible gives these instructions to families? Give examples of times that this plan worked or did not work in your family or in a family you know.
- Talk about the term "mutual submission." What does this mean? *(We submit to one another, not just to get our own way but to submit to the mission of God in the world.)*

Read Ephesians 5:21.

- What does this verse say to all of us? *(Submit to one another out of reverence to Christ.)*
- What do you think of when you hear the term "submission"?
- What is biblical submission, according to Scott's sermon? *(It means taking what you have and leveraging it for someone else's benefit. It means caring for one another and being willing to serve one another with the goal of reverence for Christ, not to build up the other one or get glory for yourself.)*
- What happens in your life when you begin living unselfishly? *(You begin to identify with Jesus.)*

Talk About It

- When you think of this, do you think of being taken advantage of? What is your initial reaction to the idea of mutual submission? Is this the biblical view?
- What would change in your life if you followed this instruction about mutual submission?
- Biblical mutual submission involves asking, "What can I do to help you?" How will you implement this teaching this week?
- How can we as a group help one another practice mutual submission?