

Talk it Over: Perfect Family August 26 & 27, 2023

Key Scriptures

Ephesians 6:1-4
Colossians 3:18-21
1 Peter 3:7

Key Thought

Jesus pointed people to the ideal, but he never condemned them when they fell short.

Start Thinking

*Does my life point people to Jesus' ideal?
Do I extend His grace easily?*

Start Talking

Was there a "perfect family" that you wanted to be a part of when you were growing up?

Start Sharing

1. When you hear the statement "You can pick your friends, but you can't pick your family," what thoughts come to mind?

*2. Which sentiment can you more easily relate to at this point in your life:
-I can fix my family.
-I might not know as much as I think.
Explain.*

*3. The bible says...
-Husbands, love your wives and be considerate.
-Wives, submit to your husbands.
-Children, obey your parents.
-Fathers, don't irritate your kids.*

Which of these commands feels hard for you? What about it is challenging?

Have you seen fruit from following one of these commands? Please share.

4. Read 1 Peter 3:7. If you believe that your family members are co-heirs in Christ, what does love require of you?

5. Read Matthew 19:4-9. What do Jesus' words tell us about God?

6. Where has our culture lowered the standards with families? What have these low standards produced?

7. Jesus was the perfect embodiment of grace and truth. If God's grace was ushered into your family, how might that change everything?

8. What relationship of yours could use some grace? What would it look like for you to bring that into the relationship?

Start Praying

Jesus, we thank you are perfect grace and perfect truth. We thank you that you call us to unattainable standards, and at the same time, your abundant grace covers our shortcomings. Forgive us Lord when we lower your standards and are hardened to your grace. Help us to live according to your call. Help us to receive your beautiful grace and extend it to others as you would Jesus. ~Amen

Start Doing

Spend some time praying this week about where you have lowered the standards for yourself. Confess & repent. Pray for God to strengthen you in this area so that you can love well and live in tension of grace and truth in a way that honors God.