Family: A Blessing or a Curse

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INTRODUCTION

- It can be a source of tremendous fulfillment and joy in our lives when the family operates as God designed it to. But it can also be a source of tremendous pain and problems.
- Perhaps what we need to be equipped with in our times is a family survival kit.
- In such close proximity for a long time, varying personalities, ideas, and behavior can lead to upset and conflict.

1 A Positive Approach to Family

1 Corinthians 13

- I want to talk about a positive approach to family that every one of us as Christians can and should develop.
- One of the things we need to learn in our families is the ability to adapt.
- And we need to adapt in a number of ways. Learning to love, sacrificing and serving, developing commitment, appreciating companionship, and nurturing friendship.
- Learn now to put self aside for the benefit of others. Learn to sacrifice, learn to serve, learn to elevate the circumstances of those who are closest to you in the world.
- They've been placed around me, this family, and I need to learn to love them. The 1 Corinthians 13 recipe. And that means learn kindness and patience.
- If you realize who you are at the deepest level, I am one who is about the business of imitating Jesus and imitating the Father, and I learn to adapt, I can approach family with a more positive view.

2 Seek First the Kingdom of God

- In the Sermon on the Mount. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.
- Realize there's a proper place for those bonds. And they must not go beyond this instruction.
- Blood is thicker than truth. That when push comes to shove. Family was more important than what was right.
- What was right was set aside because family was loved more.
- Where family is exalted above what is right. You need to be on guard against that. Right is right no matter what family does.

3 When the Family Model Lacks

Amos 3; 1 Corinthians 7; Mark 3:21

- When the family model lacks, family can fail us in a number of ways. The lack of a family member, someone who perishes. Poor behavior, upset, division, even outright repudiation.

- Can two walk together except they be agreed? Is the question in Amos chapter 3.
- But remember, even if you're in that lonely single status, there is always spiritual community to bring up the slack.
- But the single person can secure undistracted devotion to the Lord. It's not necessarily a curse to be single.
- He says, these people here that are listening to my words, this is my family. My mothers, my brothers, everyone who hears the word of God.
- Don't expect people to be mind readers. They can't know your pain if you don't reveal it.

THE CHALLENGE

You need to be a citizen of heaven. And so if you're not in Christ, you need to remedy that this hour and have your sins cleansed in his blood.

MY NOTES