

Love and Family

What a great day to be alive. Nature is changing. As you may have noticed we're getting hints of coming out of the winter season. We're not there yet, but we're headed that way.

It's kind of like eternal life. You see hints of your coming eternal life with your Father, but we're not quite there yet. So what do we do in the meantime? We Love. It's what Jesus told us to do. He said it is the number one commandment.

And so we've spent the last few weeks talking about love and what it means from a Biblical perspective. So what does love mean when it comes to your family? That's what we're going to talk about today; Love and family.

This is the third installment of our Love series. Family is what I feel, as a participant in this world, is so very important to all of us.

We've talked about Love and now it's time to talk about what we do with that love. We should perpetuate not only our love, but our love for God, our love for each other and our love for ourselves.

Romans 12:9-10

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love;

LET LOVE be without hypocrisy which leads me to think hypocrisy is something you create, something you manipulate. It's not natural because it's NOT God's law. Leave it alone. "...without hypocrisy."

So what are we supposed to do about this thing called Family Love? Brotherly or Sisterly Love? Hmmm, let's take a look at what the Bible says.....

Romans 12:10-13

...in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Whether you realize it or not, your family watches you. Your sons, your daughters, your spouse, they all watch you, to see if you do these things. The reason they watch to see if you do these things is because God put it on all of our hearts to watch for these things.

I don't care if someone is an atheist, agnostic, Muslim, Hindu, Islam Druze, or Confucianist, God put this on all our hearts to see these things in others. To see their spirit.

If you don't think your family watches over you, to see you, to see what you're going to do next, to see how you're going to handle a certain situation, look closer.

People observe. They have two eyes and two ears. They observe others. They see their habits, their quirks. They listen to what people say to others.

If you don't believe me, just listen to others and how they speak about others, the things they notice. Take a listen when you're standing in line at the grocery store, in the restaurant and you'll see what I mean. They watch, and so does your family.

The difference between them and you is, your family will more than likely.... emulate you. They will do what you do. It may not be today or tomorrow, but eventually they will emulate you.

This is where the family love comes in. We should want to perpetuate love. We should want it to grow and it be embedded in our children, and in our relatives (even the unloving ones). How do they get it. By us showing it to them. By us, as Christians modeling that love we want them to emulate.

We need to show love even to the people we don't get along with.

Romans 12:10

**Be kindly affectionate to one another
with brotherly love; in honor giving
preference to one another**

Romans 12:10 NIV

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Honor others above ourselves. Now THAT's love! I sometimes see people who want others to honor them. The people who'll push their agenda on others, who's personal agenda becomes their motivation. Who'll sacrifice their dignity to push their agenda. That's not love and that's not what families do.

Proverbs 12:7

The wicked are overthrown and are no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.

Proverbs 12:7 (NLT)

The wicked die and disappear, but the family of the godly stands firm.

This verse isn't just talking about one family because you have many families; people whom you associate with, people who you look out for and people you love. They are all part of your family. They are your family.

Your family consists of many things. Of course you have your blood relatives. Those are your mom and dad, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles.

Your Church family. Family of believers. They are the people you see Sundays and throughout the week. The people who'll be there for you when you are hurting, are down, or need a prayer. They work beside you and cheer you up. They are your spiritual family. They are your church family. You expect within this group you'll be looked after and cared for.

If you've ever traveled to another place and decided to go to church somewhere other than your church, you'll know what I mean. You walk in and although you are not a regular attendee at that church, you are welcomed (maybe more welcome at some churches than others....laugh), BUT because you are a child of God, they too are your church family.

There's your work family. The people who'll either go to bat for you when the chips are down....or they won't, but they're still family. They're still people you spend time with every day. This particular family has one goal, one objective and that's the mission of the organization. You'll probably see more personal preference in these settings than in other settings, but you have a love for these people too.

Jesus had many people he'd call family.

His parents Mary and Joseph
Disciples
And each of the disciples had family
Mary, Martha and Lazarus
The leper he healed
And many, many others.

Jesus loved them and showed love to them all. It was incredible how he could love someone who would turn him over to authorities as much as he'd love someone who loves him with all their heart.

This had to have been hard for Jesus. To love even the unlovable. To reach out to them, to meet them on their level and help them where they stood. Oh to be more like Jesus and less like me.

I think we all know how hard it is to love people.....it seems as long as they are doing the “right” thing.....according to our personal litmus or our personal preference, it’s easy. As long as they are towing the line according to some people’s interpretation of what the Bible says.

You know what I mean. “If they were Christians they wouldn’t be doing this.” Or “He professes to be a Christian, but do you know what he said to that person?” BUT can we love them? God says we’re supposed to love them as He FIRST Loved us.

Even though Jesus knew Judas was the person who’d turn him in, the person who’d make the decision to end Jesus life, he loved him. What about Peter? Jesus told Peter he would deny him. Peter said he would never do that, but Jesus knew different and still loved him and still does love him even though he denied Him three times.

Our guidance is to love one another. With no exceptions. The Bible does not say to love someone because they have blond hair, because they give you money, or because they are a movie star.

The Bible says to love others, period. To love. To love like Jesus loves us, unequivocally, without boundaries and without personal preference.

That’s what we’re asked to do. We do it not only because He asked us to, but because

Colossians 1:17

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

This week keep an eye on what you say and do. Ask yourself: are my actions what I want emulated in the world, because they will be, sometimes in the most unsuspecting ways.

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for bringing us here today and showing us how your Word tells us how to love and what you want us to do. Help us to walk your path of light and righteousness so we can model love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Because against such there is no law. Show us how to be more like Jesus and less like us. Thank you for giving us your wisdom to do what's right, your power to make things happen we can't make happen on our own and the strength to carry on in your ministry here on 8th avenue. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

I want to give you the opportunity to give your life to the Lord. Just say

Lord Jesus,
I repent of my sins.
Come into my heart.
I make you my Lord and Savior

If you say this simple prayer we believe you've been born again. Stay tuned right here or get into a Bible based church.

We Love you,
We care about you and
we can't wait to see you again next time.

Take care and God Bless.