

FX SUNDAY LOGO:**INTRO:**

When I was praying about what God was going to have me share today. I thought about, All In The Family, Family Ties, Good Times, and I realized those were all great television shows! Amongst other spiritual subjects that I was burned with one that really stood out was a sermon titled “The Family that Walks on Water”. But today I want to begin by just talking about “The Family”. It’s so much to unpack, but I want to give you some starters.

MAIN SLIDE: THE FAMILY**Point #1: Relationship Goals**

When relationships are good it is usually because you haven’t begin magnifying all the negative things in your mind yet. When we first take on relationships we tend to magnify all the good things we want to see. Think about this, when my wife and I got together, I felt as though she didn’t just walk in the room, but she floated! My wife could have thought the same about me, but later she saw me hang a picture. Basically she asked me to hang a simple picture and I showed up with an iPad, tape measure, pencil, and tools. I began to measure the entire wall so that I could calculate the area of measurement of space the picture would take up on the wall. Then I wanted to measure the distance between anything else on the adjacent walls to assure proper perspective in the room (This was really important stuff) She looks at me and says, your crazy.

MAIN SLIDE: THE FAMILY**I heard a someone say; what you magnify you actually get more of it.**

Our relationships: How we embrace them, how we pursue them, and how we nurture them are vital to our families. In-order-to understand this we must look past the ideal task of family, but look to the ministry of it. Satan knows all too well the value that the family contributes to the fabric of our society, as well as to the future of God’s work on earth as it is in heaven.

Families today have tried to engineer a life of family with the minimal or absenteeism of Christ. But if we are going to have relationship with each other as family, we must first commune with Christ so that through our relationship with Him we sustain our relationships with one another.

So when we look at that scripture I shortly mentioned:

Psalm 34:3 "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together".

As a family we should be making Christ BIGGER in our family. He should be magnified in every situation. **This is where we lead our family not in distress because of circumstances, but in faith because of the magnification of who He is.** When we do this the integrity of our relationships with each other and with Christ increases significantly. We become dependent on Christ for the success of our relationship vs. dependent upon our own thoughts and actions.

The relationship goal should not just be family, but an eternal family. Eternal means, lasting or existing forever; without end or beginning. As family we must seek an eternal relationship thus seeking eternal salvation. The plan of the gospel originated in the council of an eternal family, it is then carried out through our earthly families, with the family as the primary support structure in God's plan to help us resist evil, overcome weakness, and work out our salvation.

In God's plan for the family and all its' members, is for us to affirm that Jesus is Lord. Striving for an eternal family we affirm this through our submission and love for one another. Together, husbands and wives set the tone, displaying their love and affection for Christ in giving themselves to the covenant and responsibility of marriage. Children in turn display their learned knowledge of Jesus as the head of their life by respecting and obeying their parents. When everyone in the family embraces this biblical mandate, it makes for healthy relationships with God and each other.

Our relationship goals are hindered by our view or our failure to embrace that love confronts. A lot of times we believe not confronting sustains the relationship, but please understand what it actually does is robs the eternal progress. Without love and the confronting everyone is just doing anything they'd like to do outside of the will of God and the family. We must be courageous enough in our relationships to tell each other the truth in love.

Think about this.... Have you ever told a kid there were no more cookies but the jar or the package was full (**Forgive them for lying Lord**)? The reason we do that is because it's much easier not to deal with the hollering of truth. At some point we have to just say you cannot have any more cookies, and it's not good for you to eat a lot of cookies.

If we continue to tell people, you can run faster than anyone and your voice sings to the heavens and you cook like Bobby Flay. There's going to be a moment that they come into a firm understanding, there horrible. The kid has like 50 first first place ribbons and have not a clue how to win at life.

Consider the Parable of the Lost Sheep

Matthew 18:12-14

12 “What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? **13** And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. **14** Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish
15 “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ay, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish.

LOVE CONFRONTS

Ephesians 4:15

15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

1 Corinthians 13:6

Love “does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth

James 5:20

Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins”

Do not hinder the opportunity to have relationship goals in family!

Point #2: A Seed Is No Good Unless It Is Put Into Soil

I want to talk about the empowering of the next generation in this.

MAIN SLIDE: THE FAMILY

As leaders of the first biblical small group - “THE FAMILY”, we must take care **of** **and** support our children up to the point of maturity. We are to **rear** a **child**, nurture, **and** raise our children. Parenting or **child rearing** is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a **child** from infancy to (maturity) adulthood.

I want you to consider a family model in our society known as a Generative Family. Also known as Legacy Families, due to their combination of longevity and accumulated wealth, which drives the family legacy to the fore front of the concerns of every individual family member. They have a core purpose and a set of values. Their

values and purpose are somewhat continuous, but their meaning evolves over generations.

These families share a purpose, and they reaffirm that purpose together, in each generation — each generation reinvents the business. There's a lot of cross-generational engagement — the older generation is involved with the younger generation. The older generation is listening to the younger generation, the younger generation is learning from the older generation, and actually they're learning from each other. They are not merely sharing information to place it on the shelf of their life, but it is utilized for the ongoing of generational success.

They seek to build a **family** that both adapts over generations and has a strong sense of shared identity.

Lyrics - Father Abraham

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's just praise the Lord
Right arm
Right arm, left arm
Right arm, left arm, right foot
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot
Chin up
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot
Chin up, turn around
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot
Chin up, turn around, sit down

I believe that from the beginning when God chose Abraham, He knew Abraham, that he'd command his children and his household after him, that they'd keep the way of the Lord. Abraham lead his family to love God. He trained his family in the principles of righteousness and justice.

Understand, when God called Abraham and said he'd be a blessing it wasn't just him. God was calling him, his family, and all their future descendants! God is telling us that I love individuals, but I want to bless the entire family!

Acts 2:39 (ESV)

39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.”

So what is it about the seed?

Point #2: A Seed Is No Good Unless It Is Put Into Soil

If you were a farmer in earlier times, you would carry a bag of seeds on your back while walking along the path of the furrows you'd plowed scattering seeds about. Those seeds which would fall into the prepared soil would take root and grow. Notice I said the prepared soil. The prepared soil is a specific destination and represents the appropriate landing spot for the seed. You see the seed that landed in the grass or in the dirt is the same, but something different happens when it lands in the prepared soil.

1 Peter 1:23 NASB

23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

Proverbs 22:6 NIV

6 Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

We cannot expect our seeds to grow in the absenteeism of Christ, because Christ is necessary for the growth and maturing to take place.

Point #3: Build With God's Floor Plan

The design of the family must be built with the floor plans submitted by God.

MAIN SLIDE: THE FAMILY

Any **historical** understanding of **family** would acknowledge its central **role** in social, political, and personal relationships. The family itself is very much a social construction. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption. God ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society and is the reflective image of God on earth..

Across history and even from the beginning of time the evidence of its vital role is affirmed by the many attacks. The definition and the structure of what the family is seems to constantly be changing and under attack. While we pray and worship for families, they're being attacked in the court room with new laws that go against the very purpose God intended for family. While charging forward for victory the family is politically and socially being deconstructed right before I very eyes.

We are getting caught up in all the styles of raising children and leading our families vs. yielding to the original blue print. We are trying to figure out something that has already been created and ordained. We are seeking order while operating with disorderly conduct.

It was division that created this, therefore unity should break the cycle.