

FIGHT

The Fight
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April 3, 2016

Discussion Notes
The Crossing Church
Las Vegas, Nevada

OPENING

Families are the most complex, frustrating and life-giving relationships in our lives. I don't know where you are in your relationships, but over the next few weeks we are going to be talking about families. You might wonder why we would name a family series "Fight." It is because great families don't happen by accident. If you want a great family, you have to fight for it. God says it is worth fighting for.

SCRIPTURE¹

Nehemiah 4:14b "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

Colossians 3:18 "Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

Colossians 3:19 "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."

Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

Colossians 3:21 "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."

Ephesians 5:21 "Submit to one another out of reverence to Christ."

OBSERVATION

Families are diverse, i.e. some are blended and some are traditional, some parents are single and others have been married several times, but there are two things we all have in common:

- You didn't get to pick your family.
- Your family has some sort of dysfunction.

Question: If you could have picked your family, would you have picked this one? Why/why not?

Biblical families were imperfect, too. God tells us about them as He teaches us what to do/not to do in the family relationship.

Question: Tell us about the following Biblical characters and their familial struggles: Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Rebekah, Jacob, David, and Eli the Priest.

Question: What is the dysfunction in your family?

We may be imperfect people, but we serve a gracious God who wants to be involved in our lives and gives incredible wisdom about families.

- Jesus tells us that in any culture, love is the most important value.
- St. Paul tells us that there are rules of engagement for families.
- He also tells us that God's fighting words have an enormous impact in creating great families.

APPLICATION

Rules of engagement begin with submission.

- The ideal situation is for the husband to lead his home in such a way that he says, "We are following after Christ."
- The ideal situation is for the wife to say, "I agree with that and I want to be involved with that"

¹ All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated

mission.”

Question: Why is it so difficult for wives to submit to their husbands? What could husbands do to make it easier?

It is easy to love God and submit to Him.

- Wives, you are to take all of your commitment and your gratitude to God and apply that to your marriages.
- Husbands, you are to love your wives as Christ loves the Church.
- Children, you are to obey your parents.
- Fathers, don't frustrate your children. Your words can crush their spirits.

Question: Tell us about a time you used words with your child that you wish you could take back.

Mutual submission means that everybody in the family submits to all of the others. This raises fears in some of us:

- They will take advantage of me.
- No one is going to do it but me.
- No one is going to be in authority.

Question: What do you fear most about submitting to others in your family?

St. Paul says we are to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ so there really is nothing to fear. Be grateful to God for what he has done for you. Show this gratitude to your family out of reverence to Him.

- He died for you.
- He forgave your sins.
- He changed your life.
- He gave you eternal life.

Question: What other day to day blessings from God are you grateful for?

The fighting words we mentioned above are, “What can I do to help you?” They exhibit the epitome of submission.

Question: Why do think using these fighting words in your family will bring about improvement in your relationships?

In all relationships if you have power, use it for the powerless, if you have authority, use it for those who don't have any, and if you have resources, use them for those who don't have any.

Question: In what context do you have power, authority and resources in your life? How are you using them? How could you better use them as you share Christ with others?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for all you have done for me and my family. You are so gracious and merciful and I want to share those same qualities with my family. Help me to ask what I can do for you, Lord, and then to ask the same question of my family members. As our family relationship changes and grows, Lord, we will give you the glory for showing us, through Jesus' example, how to live together in harmony and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Crossing Connection meetings are scheduled for Sunday, April 10th at 1:30 p.m. and Tuesday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Venue