

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

God's Vision for the Church as His Faithful Family

Week 6: Sound Relationships

Almighty God, we beseech you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the Cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR
GOOD FRIDAY

SOUND RELATIONSHIPS

Class Outline

- The Family of God
 - Who Are Jesus' Mothers, Brothers, & Sisters?
 - The Brokenness of Human Families
 - Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters
 - What Does it Look Like to be the Family of God?
- Family Discipleship
 - The Pattern of Discipleship
 - The Tone of Discipleship
 - The Vulnerability of Discipleship

SOUND RELATIONSHIPS

1 Timothy 5.1–2; Titus 2.1-8 ESV

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

– 1 Timothy 5.1-2

SOUND RELATIONSHIPS

1 Timothy 5.1–2; Titus 2.1-8

ESV

Teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. Tell the older men to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husband and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself [Titus] in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

– Titus 2.1–8

THE FAMILY OF GOD

- **Who are Jesus' Mothers, Brothers, & Sisters?**
- **The Brokenness of Human Families**
- **Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters**
- **What Does It Look Like To Be the Family of God?**

THE FAMILY OF GOD

> Who are Jesus' Mothers, Brothers, & Sisters?

The Brokenness of Human Families

Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters

What Does It Look Like To Be the
Family of God?

Mark 3.31–35

Jesus' mother and brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and brothers are outside seeking you."

He answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

THE FAMILY OF GOD

> **Who are Jesus' Mothers, Brothers, & Sisters?**

The Brokenness of Human Families

Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters

What Does It Look Like To Be the
Family of God?

Jesus Re-situates the Family

- Jesus does not reject the importance of our human families...
- ...He resituates the human family in its proper place within God's Kingdom.
- God doesn't intend for us to forsake our families...
- ...but that our families will be brought with us into the stronger bonds of the covenantal community, through Holy Baptism.

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Who are Jesus' Mothers, Brothers, & Sisters?

> **The Brokenness of Human Families**

Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters

What Does It Look Like To Be the Family of God?

The Brokenness of Human Families

- Every human family is a broken family.
- Our human families manifest the sinfulness of humanity in devastating ways.
- People often import their experiences of sinful human families into Scripture's familial language. But...
- God's depiction of family should inform our understanding of when our families picture God's family and when they fail to do so.

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Who are Jesus' Mothers, Brothers, & Sisters?

The Brokenness of Human Families

> **Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters**

What Does It Look Like To Be the Family of God?

Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters

- In God's family...
 - Older men are fathers
 - Older women are mothers
 - Younger men are brothers
 - Younger women are sisters
- These categories are relative—consider them generationally.
 - A generation above you: fathers and mothers
 - Your contemporaries: brothers and sisters
 - A generation below you: children or younger siblings

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Who are Jesus' Mothers, Brothers, & Sisters?

The Brokenness of Human Families

> **Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters**

What Does It Look Like To Be the Family of God?

Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters

There is no longer single parents nor orphans, childless nor fatherless, forgotten nor abandoned; for we are all fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters in God's family.

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Who are Jesus' Mothers, Brothers, & Sisters?

The Brokenness of Human Families

Fathers & Mothers, Brothers & Sisters

> What Does It Look Like To Be the Family of God?

Familial Qualities

- Sober-minded (1 Tim 3.2, 11)
- Dignified (1 Tim 3.8, 11)
- Self-controlled (Titus 1.8)
- Sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness (1 Tim 3.9, 11)
- Reverent in behavior (1 Tim 3.8)
- Not slanderers (1 Tim 3.11)
- Not slave to wine (1 Tim 3.3, 8; Titus 1.7)
- Faithful to spouse and children (1 Tim 3.4, 12; Titus 1.6)
- Household responsibilities (1 Tim 3.4, 12)
- Model of good works
- Integrity (1 Timothy 3.8)
- Sound speech (1 Timothy 3.8)

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **The Pattern of Discipleship**
- **The Tone of Discipleship**
- **The Vulnerability of Discipleship**

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

> **The Pattern of Discipleship**

The Tone of Discipleship

The Vulnerability of Discipleship

The Pattern of Discipleship

- God has always used families as a source of discipleship.
- Old Covenant – children brought into covenantal community and instructed in faith by their parents.
- New Covenant – children brought into covenant community and instructed in faith by their parents.
- The New Covenant also expands both our understanding of family *and* the scope of discipleship.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

> **The Pattern of Discipleship**

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The Pattern of Discipleship

Matthew 28.18–20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

> The Pattern of Discipleship

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The Pattern of Discipleship

Titus 2 – The Pattern in Our Passage

The older women...are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women...

Show yourself [Titus] to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

The Pattern of Discipleship

> **The Tone of Discipleship**

The Vulnerability of Discipleship

The Tone of Discipleship

- Timothy and Titus called to “rebuke” and “silence” false teachers (1 Tim 5.20; Titus 1.11, 13)
- Not so with the true family of God: *Do not rebuke...but encourage...* (1 Tim 5.1–2)
- But doesn’t Paul rebuke Peter (Galatians 2.11–14)?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

The Pattern of Discipleship

> **The Tone of Discipleship**

The Vulnerability of Discipleship

Galatians 2.11–14

I opposed [Peter] to his face because he stood self-condemned...the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him...when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to [Peter] before them all...

- Peter was...
 - Hypocritical (cf. 1 Tim 4.2)
 - Self-condemned (cf. Titus 3.11)
 - Not consistent with truth of the Gospel (cf. 1 Timothy 1.10–11)

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

The Pattern of Discipleship

> **The Tone of Discipleship**

The Vulnerability of Discipleship

Philippians 2.4-5; James 1.19–20; 1 Corinthians 13.4–7

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.

– Philippians 2.4–5

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

– James 1.19–20

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

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> **The Tone of Discipleship**

The Vulnerability of Discipleship

Philippians 2.4-5; James 1.19–20; 1 Corinthians 13.4–7

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

– 1 Corinthians 13.4–7

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

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> **The Vulnerability of Discipleship**

Love & Vulnerability

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

– C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

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The Tone of Discipleship

> **The Vulnerability of Discipleship**

Two Possible Errors

- The refusal to be vulnerable with someone (certainly not the whole church!)
- The dismissal or rejection of someone's vulnerability.
- Both fail to embody the truths we proclaim in the gospel: acknowledging our sinfulness and God's gracious love for us in Christ anyways.

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The Gospel & Our Failure

“A Christian home is a home where the children repent to the parents, the parents repent to the children, the wife repents to the husband, the husband repents to the wife. It’s not a perfect home. No such place exists. It’s a home full of repentance, grace, and restoration.”

So, too, is the household of God.

TODAY'S SOURCES

- C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*.
- Michael Foster, Facebook Post.
- William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles*. Vol. 46 in Word Biblical Commentary.