

We Are Family

My 12 People

by Chris Famisaran

Good morning, everybody. Wow, we got a great group today. I know as well, Erlinda is here. Praise the Lord. Courage to you on your journey for praying for you love you. I also want to let you know, Dolores Gamboa made sure that I would say hello to you all, as well. Visited her earlier this week. So she misses and loves you all and she wants to make sure she loves you as well.

Let's begin with the word of prayer. Father in heaven, Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to be able to come together and worship as a family. Be with us as we dive deeper into our series of My 12 People. And as we especially talk about how we can love our families better in Jesus name, amen.

I find it so fortuitous that you know we're talking about family and my family decides to show up the one day I talk about family. So there's nothing I can hide. My sister is sitting right here too, with her kids. And my parents are back there with Leisa. So if you haven't said hi to them, they love to talking to people. So yeah, they can tell all kinds of things about me. Things that I wish were buried deep, deep deep in the earth.

Anyways, we are family. To some degree your family has shaped you. Amen. Positively, negatively, a little bit, a lot. Family. Keith Miller tells a story where he was in a sharing group where there was a woman I believe she was about 40 years old shares of a story. Her story. When she was young, both her parents passed away early and she had she had no other family. So she was placed in an orphanage. And so she got along well with the other kids, but she wanted to have her own family a place to be long. Well, one day she found out that a family was going to come and take her home. They picked her up they went home. And over the next couple of months. It was very transforming time for her. She started school, she was happy. And as she skipped her way home when she got to the door though. She walked inside and she saw that her battered suitcase was full with all of her stuff in her coat lying on top of it. And she wondered why? Why is my suitcase in the hallway. No one was around. It was still early for the adults to come home. And outside she heard a car pull up. It was a service to come and pick her up. As a child, I can't even imagine that. It broke her heart. What's even more horror about this, this would not be the last time, it would be seven times she would experience this heartbreak. Now I've been very blessed. I've been able to grow up in a family where my parents raised us in a very loving home. I can't comprehend this.

Many of us at some point those are some of us, I should say have experienced loss of a parent or both parents. The sense of belonging is important. It's what makes us because God designed us not only being community but created families. Adam and Eve both had kids. You see throughout Scripture. There are many families. Family is important in Scripture.

For those of you as well I want to I want to reach out to you as well for those perhaps who've lost a parent whether you're young or even as you're older. Please know you are family here. We love you and want to welcome you into the fold.

So, family is probably the most single and most influential and biggest influence for you probably as a child. From the very beginning, children are dependent on their parents, for nurture, for food, for water, for shelter for security for protection. Moms and dads are there are the kids first teachers, parents and maybe even grandparents aunts and uncles, aunties and uncles. They all have a part in playing a role in the life of a child as they grow up. As they go to school as well. They take on more responsibilities, but parents are always going to be there to hopefully be able to be there to help shape and mold. And as a child grows, they become teenagers. They become adults, they have their own kids. And while the relationship may evolve and adapt still got mom and dad as a parent.

How many of you were given a manual on how to raise kids? Okay, Okay. Did not expect that. The joke is nobody gets a manual, right? Well, when you started out maybe some of you were prepared. You had all of your ducks lined up in a row. You had a house you had savings and everything. Some of you may be asked How could this happen? Perhaps some of you experienced somewhere in the middle. You know, when we look at families in the Bible we have Jacob's family is 12 boys and Dinah you have Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel. You have what are the families are in the Bible? Okay, Noah, Who else? Abraham. Alright, we got Isaac, how about in the New Testament? Any family's in there? Okay. James and John's sons of Zebedee. Anybody else? Okay.

Today, folks, if there's one thing that I want you to take away Is this okay? This is I'm giving my sermon away. This is my main point is that prayer is the beginning to strengthen or to mend a broken relationship in your family.

Now, let's go to our biggest example Jesus, did Jesus have brothers and sisters? Yes, he did. In fact, we have some scriptures. Here, the Bible, and let's just go real quickly, we won't read all of them. But let's go to Mark 6. You got your Bibles out, pull him up to Mark 6. Okay, there's several, we're not going to go through all these scriptures. But this is just for your reference on your notes. You can keep this if you want to look it up later. And these aren't all of them either. Maybe if you want to do a google Jesus family.

Now in the context, this is when Jesus goes back and he's not necessarily welcomed back with open arms. Okay, we all there? So Jesus left there, he went to his home town, accompanied by his disciples. And when the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue. And many who heard him were amazed. Where did this man get these things? they asked, What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles? He is performing? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters with us? I love the last part, and they took offense to him.

Now, Matthew also tells of a similar incident as well. Okay. So Jesus had family. Now you ever got brothers and sisters or maybe your parents or maybe your cousins? Did you ever fight with your family? Oh no, I'm not gonna lie. She and I fought the most okay. To this day, I still fight with her lovingly, lovingly. All right. That's never gonna change us just our relationship, especially if you know we were homeschool for a very long time. And don't lie. I know some of you are thinking, Oh, that explains a few things. All right, I know it, I know it.

Let's, let's actually go to a verse in a passage where it says, Jesus had some little trouble with this family. Let's go to Mark 3. Let's go. Let's go back a couple chapters to Mark 3. All right, we there?

Okay, so then Jesus entered a house and again, a crowd gathered so that he and his disciples weren't even able to eat. It was so packed. And when his family heard about this, they went to take charge. Remember that they said, he is out of his mind. Ever have your family tell you you're crazy? Where you want to tell your family you're crazy? Right?

There's another incident. I love this one, too. Let's go to John 7. John 7:3.

All right, it says Jesus brothers said to him, okay, this is Jesus, his brothers giving him advice, leave Galilee, and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works. You do. No one wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world, for even his own brothers didn't believe in him. Can you imagine that? Your own family? It's probably hard for their his brothers and his sisters to accept him. Because you know, Hey, he's their brother, right? You're not supposed to be special. You're one of us. Even some of his own family couldn't comprehend who he was.

Jesus was misunderstood by his own family. Ever been misunderstood by even your own family? I even imagine that... Maybe some of you have probably found a times you weren't sure what you were going to do with a challenging family member? Right? How do we do that?

One of the things that I think that's important is that when we're having perhaps a little conflict with our family is that we have to be humble about it. And ask ourselves, is there anything I contributed to this problem? Right? Take ownership. And yet, you also have to ask, Hey, how can we fix this. And other challenges, they may not be ready to fix it, to reconcile at that point. But let them know that you love them. You're still family.

When it comes to family, one of the challenging things too is your family knows who you really are. Even odd. See, like, even though I'm a pastor, for instance, I know my sister will tell me you're just my brother. Right? Yeah, your pastor Chris, blah, blah, blah, people know you, blah. But you're my brother. Same goes with my other brother and sister. And, you know, growing up, I have all of these memories, things. Again, like I said, I would rather hope we're buried in the middle of the earth that nobody could get to. But it is what it is.

And we all have experiences with our own family that probably colors their view of who we are. And maybe when we try to make changes in our own lives, maybe you were on a path and when you decide, hey, I want to, to go on a different path. It's hard for them to accept that. And maybe it's even hard and they're a little jaded and perhaps is is he or she really truly committed to change.

Yet your family is a strongest influence in your life. And God desires that we have healthy relationships with each other. When we look in Scripture, there's been several figures who prayed for their families. I think the probably the biggest one that I can recall is Hannah. Praying for her very own child that she's so deeply loved and wanted, right. I also think of Abraham when he was praying for his nephew Lot, he was deeply concerned. And he prayed several times to spare them care for life. I think of Elizabeth and Mary both finding out when they're going to have kids, thanking God and praising God, and also for their child. But I also think of even the remember the Syrophoenician woman who, I believe her child was demon possessed. And she basically begged for Jesus to heal her daughter. In many respects, I consider that a prayer. Because whether she literally was in the presence of God, or 50,000 miles away from God,

she was pleading with God. I also think of Anna, who was praying for the Messiah, even though she had no kids. She was still praying for this very special child to come.

Now, what is God's expectation? How are we supposed to? How are we supposed to treat our family? How are we supposed to care for them? Let's go to Ephesians chapter 5, verse 22, Ephesians 5:22.

God desires that we have healthy family relationships. We're going to look at some scriptures to see what are some pointers and this isn't going to be everything but just to start with, okay? We all there? Ephesians 5:22

A very famous verse I'm going to start off with Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord for the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ as the head of the church, his body of which He is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

The air got a little chilly, didn't it? Yet, you know, this text has been used. And for so many years, it's been taken out of context. Okay. Let's go to verse 21. What does verse 21 say? Submit to one another out of reverence. Let's pump the brakes a little bit. All right, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Now, Paul talks to the ladies. And then he shifts his viewpoint to the guys. Now, then he says, Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church, and gave himself up for her to make her holy cleansing her by the washing with water through the word and to present her to himself as a radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church for we are members of his body. And for this reason, a man will leave his father, his mother, be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound ministry mystery, but I'm talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself and the wife must respect her husband.

I'm not gonna lie. I think Paul, standard for men just went from here to here [up], amen.

When Paul says, Hey, guys, you need to love your wives just as much as you love your own self care. For instance, would you punch yourself in the face? Would you think horrible thoughts about yourself? No. More, so why would we want to do so and treat our spouse the same way? Now, of course, let's look in the context. So Paul is dealing with some specific issues here, okay. We look at the whole context of from Genesis to Revelation. Jesus wants wise not just to, you know, both submit to each other, but he wants wives to love their spouse as well, amen.

Okay, so let's just not, let's not forget that, all right. But this could be very applicable as well just as to wives as well. If you truly love your spouse if you're to become one flesh, treat each other as you would want to be treated. And in fact, I think that's one of Jesus imperatives. It's an action statement. If you truly want to love your family, treat them as you would treat them yourselves.

Now, if we continue in chapter six, verse one, talk about kids now. So we have mom and dad. Now we shift the focus to kids where it says, children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. All right. All right, Landon. Obey your mom.

Honor your father and mother. Okay, Paul is going deep. He's going all the way back to Exodus to the 10 commandments. And this is not a passage just happens here in Exodus, but multiple times throughout Paul's writings, right? Honor your father, and your mother. And it's also again, it's also with the promise, which is the first commandment with the promise, so that it may go well with you, and that you may enjoy long life on Earth.

Honor your love, obey your parents, honor and love. Breaking that down means to love them, respect them, care for them. When they brought you into the world, you were helpless. And they cared and loved and nurtured you. And as time goes by your relationship grows, but then your chant your relationship, towards the end of their lives is going to change where now becomes important for you. To be able to care for them to love and honor and treat them with respect. Both of these things are rooted in one word, love. To submit to one another means you are to love one another. To care for your parents means your to love, honor, and cherish your parents.

We also give some advice to for moms and dads, hey, in verse four says, fathers don't exasperate your children. Instead, bringing up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Certainly you want your kids to grow to be strong to be capable. But don't push them so far that they go over the edge, it's a warning. Some of you are asking, Pastor, how can I love my family through prayer? Well, earlier that last week, we made a list right? So you chose three family members. And I would just say add your own family, okay? Add your parents, add your kids, add your add your spouse, okay, if you want to add anybody else. And simply start praying for them pray for their lives, pray that they do well at work in school, their activities, such as soccer or dance, whatever, right?

But more than anything, pray that they find and know who Jesus is.

And not just pray for them. As a family get together, this is an opportunity, you know, we are so busy, and we're constantly distracted. One of my worries is that we're becoming too distracted. And our families are slowly but surely growing apart. Okay. And so one of the things that I would suggest is whether it's in the morning, or maybe at the evening, maybe in the evening, everybody puts their cell phones in a basket can't look at anything and just share number one, how's your day going? What was great about it? And then think asked each person what is one thing that you're thankful for God or you want to give God praise? You know, I made a field goal today I got a promotion I, I got the Student of the Month. Okay. But then also what's one prayer requests that you have and pray as a family. And it doesn't have to be long prayers. It could be just, you know, popcorn prayers, thank you, God for this or Thank you God for that and go on a circle. What does this do? It builds unity among your family, you're communing together, and you're staying together. So pray together as a family.

I know for as kids grow as well, and especially for moms and dads, grandparents. You love your kids, your grandkids and sometimes they make decisions that you may not necessarily agree with either. Am I right?

Pray for your kids. But I would also say pray for your parents to love them. Submit to one another, everyone, humility, love. But have a time of sharing with the family. We used to do that around the family dinner table. We asked what's going on. But in today's evolving world where we're so busy mom and dad may not always be there because we have to work. Times are getting harder, maybe we have to work an extra shift this or that. And slowly but surely our family units are being challenged.

Now, What would happen if our church family all began to pray for our own individual families, we'd be united. We'd be more humble. And it would cause us to look out for one another.

Now another challenge, I think that we sometimes ... or maybe not a challenge... if you've if you've been reading your book, okay. The 12 People You Love book. One of the questions that was asked is how can we love someone? Without any expectations? No. Non transactional love. How can we love without any expectation of something in return? I remember many years ago, I think I was a I was a teenager, and I was at somebody's house. And there was a brother and sister the brother was older. He was a teenager, and I think he was doing the dishes. And his younger sister. I don't know, I don't remember how old she was maybe seven or eight. She couldn't make dinner for herself. And as he was doing dishes, she said, Hey, I'm hungry. Can you make me something to eat? And his response was sure I'll do it if you'd be good. And just something to me just recoiled at that. Because I know that if my sister who was my youngest sister, you know, if I was his age, she wouldn't have been able to make a meal for herself yet. That's like, dude, she's hungry. What's one of the best things you can do as a loving brother is make a meal for her. It's an act of love. But in his thinking is like, okay, I'll do it. But you know, per his thinking as well. You're such a pain only do it if you be good. Does that inspire confidence? No. And those kinds of actions eventually lead to what? Resentment.

And so my question for you all, is how can we, as a church, show love in non transactional ways? I want to leave that with you. How can I love my brother, my sister, my mom, my dad, and especially my, my spouse, without having any expectation of something in return. That is true love. Because when we look at the cross was Jesus expecting anything other than love? Faith, there's nothing that we could do that could have saved us. And yet God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. In his life, he came into the world not to condemn the world, but to save the world. The same love that Jesus shows us. May we love our mom and dads, our brothers and sisters, our children, and our spouse. May God bless you, leading guide you. Please continue to pray for your 12 people. Let's continue this journey.

Father in heaven, we thank You for Your goodness. We thank you for your love. Help us to love our families, Lord, to the best that we can. May we submit to one another in love and humility to grow together? And Lord, where we have our differences? May we be able to talk through them to reconcile them if there needs to be Lord? May we be on the same journey together, grounded together? And Lord, may we be a church that represents you. Well, thank you for your goodness and all that you do. And Lord, thank you for this church family, Lord. In Jesus name, amen.

Grace and peace everybody. Next week Bill is going to be talking about how we can love our friends.