

Identity in my Family

9/24/23 #3 in Series Guess Who?

1 Co 12:12–31

// Introduction Ideas

- My family dynamic growing up
- We had a lot of laughing
- We worked hard - my dad taught us the importance of hard work
- Generous - My parents were ALWAYS giving a meal to someone, a car of ours would be lended out, etc.
- Church was LIFE Sunday, Sunday Night, Wed Night
- We struggled financially often but that didn't stop my parents from trying to create experiences for us - super thankful for that.
- Devotions every night

Each of us grew up with different family dynamics.

For most of us that are no longer 10 years old, WE are now creating the family dynamics. **We are creating the memories our children and spouse will have.** Sobering.

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// There are many roles in the family

- Child (Son/Daughter), Husband/Wife, Father/Mother, Grandfather/Grandmother, Uncle/Aunt, etc
- As we enter each season of our life, taking on new roles, we need to be aware of that role and honor God in it. Sometimes parents

who become grandparents don't take the time with their grandkids they should be taking. As Christians you are different. We as Christians, Christ-followers are different than the world. Grandparent stage is one that gives you the chance to love those little ones and give them all the wisdom God's been teaching you over the years - usually over ice cream. Sugar them up and send them home - as long as you spend some time with them.

- Child 📖 Exodus 20:12

¹²Honor your father and your mother^m so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

- Husband/Wife 📖 Genesis 3:16–19 (CSB)

¹⁶He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you.

¹⁷And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life.

¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust."

- 📖 Ephesians 5:22-33 CSB

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, caring for her just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For

no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, since we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

- Father  Col 3:21

Fathers, do not exasperate^p your children, so that they won't become discouraged.

- Ephesians 6:1-4 CSB

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land. Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

- Hebrews 12:7-11 CSB

Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline—which all receive—then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had human fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but he does it for our benefit, so that we can share his holiness. No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- Mother

- Proverbs 1:8-9 CSB

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction,
and don't reject your mother's teaching,ⁱ
⁹ for they will be a garland^j of favor on your head
and pendants^c around your neck.^k

- Isaiah 66:13 CSB
As a mother comforts her son, so I will comfort you, and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.
- The point is, we all have unique dynamics and roles within the family unit that God has designed. **These roles change sometimes as we enter new seasons.**
- We get married - now we have to learn as **guys how to serve** our wives the way Christ Jesus served the church - preferring her above ourselves. This is hard for many guys. They know the scriptures. They can even teach a class on what it means to be a Christian. But in the home - when they're given the opportunity to serve - to change diapers, to clean dishes, to vacuum and sweep, clean the gutters, pull the weeds, sadly, many Christian men their faith goes out the window. If asked to do something they ignore it and become demanding. For some guys when their wife points out something she'd like to see differently in him, instead of humility and a good listener ear, the man gets defensive and angry. (I've done it - too many times to admit)
- We get married - **now women who were quite independent** maybe the last 4 years of college or 8 years of life **suddenly have to come under the headship and authority of this man?** WHAT? Sure they love him after all - that's why she married him - but submit? Submit when two plans, two opinions and two choices are at odds? No way. While this isn't a Marriage sermon per say it is a call to Biblical living and in the context of marriage THERE is where we FIRST live out a Christ-like life. Just as the man is encouraged not to LORD that authority over his wife but rather to serve her, the wife isn't called to control or manipulate through words or sex or withholding sex in order to have control in her marriage.
- Marriage is tough. Anyone who tells you otherwise is LYING! Lol
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- **It's been said that in marriage, our follow-ship of Christ is tested the most.** Of course it is! You're often SO different. Lol I honestly think Marriage is proof that God has a sense of humor. He's like "Gabriel check this out. I'm gonna put these two together - I'm gonna make *them* fall in love! He's good with directions. She gets lost in her own home. He's good with money. She blows her money. He wants no kids. She wants five! His mother in law is a clean freak. THESE TWO are gonna have to live every day together! LOL

- Marriage is also the most amazing gift as you get to be with the one you love the most - your best friend every day.
- Marriage is funny right - you can kiss your spouse and just love them to pieces and 60 seconds later be hollering at each other! Lol Then 60 seconds later be all nice - what should we eat for dinner? =)
 - A father cannot be the child any more than the child be the father.
 - For those of you who may have experienced otherwise understand the imbalance this brings to a household and the lasting impact this has on one's life!
- **You are creating a culture with your words - the way you speak creates a culture of peace and honor OR disrespect, worry & fear.**



// The Family of Believers

- Jesus clarifies very quickly who is a family member!
- **Mark 3:31-35**
 - **TRUE RELATIONSHIPS - Notice what Jesus says about His FAMILY**
 - ³¹His mother and his brothers came, and standing outside, they sent word to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him and told him, “Look, your mother, your brothers, and your sisters are outside asking for you.”
 - ³³He replied to them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴Looking at those sitting in a circle around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!” ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my

brother and sister and mother.”

- This is later built on in Romans where we see that Jesus is the firstborn among us all!
 - In Jewish culture, the firstborn had incredible significance:
 - The firstborn in the ancient Near East had certain privileges and responsibilities, The firstborn was the principal heir of the family and upon the incapacitation of the father, through death or otherwise, the firstborn became the head of the family. Ronald E. Clements writes, “In general, such a firm imposition of the rights of inheritance within a family was concerned to maintain a secure social order” (Clements, *Deuteronomy*, 446)...Ancient Near Eastern custom allotted a double portion of the inheritance to the firstborn.

- Romans 8:29

For those he foreknew he also predestined^{ap} to be conformed to the image of his Son,^{ap} so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. RO 8:29

GOD KNEW who would choose Him and allow Him to be adopted. YET, His salvation is made available to all and “ALL who call upon the Lord will be saved.” And ALL are commissioned to DO and BE the Great Commission - go and tell people about Jesus, and invite them into the Family!

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- The firstborn was no small position to be in, while today your family may not carry that responsibility on the first born, the cultural significance of this at that time was huge!
Jesus is the FIRSTBORN - our older brother
- Hebrews 9 - 11 get passages
- Jesus is the perfect older brother that we need Luke 15 - He is not only PERFECT like the older brother in this story - but He does celebrate with us. Instead of comparing himself to us, He

welcomes us back home and celebrates like the Father does at our safe return!

- Jesus also often refers to the family of the church as the body of believers, where we are given unique and different roles:
- We are all part of this body we call the Family of Believers
 - ¹²For just as the body is one^a and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ.^b ¹³For we were all baptized by^c one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink.^d ¹⁴Indeed, the body is not one part but many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I’m not a hand, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I’m not an eye, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted.^e ¹⁹And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” Or again, the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²²On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are indispensable. ²³And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable,^f we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, ²⁴which our respectable parts do not need.

Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, ²⁵so that there would be no division^g in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. ²⁶So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ,^h and individual members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed these in the church:ⁱ first apostles, second prophets, third teachers,^j next miracles,^k then gifts of healing,^l helping, leading, various kinds of tongues.^c ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? ³⁰Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?^o ³¹But desireⁿ the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.
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// The Household of God

- As part of the family of God, when we understand our identity in our faith, and our identity in our skin, as we have discussed these past few weeks, we begin to recognize that we have an identity in the family of God and we are part of His Household!

- I'm reminded of the old Audio Adrenaline song, "Big House"

Those who are part of God's household have a hope and a future with Him! God's Word tells us what GENUINE Christianity looks like in plain terms.

Romans 12:9–18 (ESV):

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

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- **Ephesians 2:19-22 CSB**

So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,^r with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building, being put together,^s grows into a holy temple in the Lord.^t ²² In him you are also being built together^u for God's dwelling^v in the Spirit.

- **Romans 8:15-17 CSB**

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear.ⁿ Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption,^o by whom we cry out, "Abba,^D Father!"^p ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit^q that we are God's children, ¹⁷ and if children, also heirs^r—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him^s so that we may also be glorified with him.

- This brings us back full circle in the Family - We are children of God.
 - Remember, as children we must:
 - Honor our Father, Show Respect (public affirmation)
 - Listen to our Father's teaching

- **Galatians 3:23-26 CSB**

Before this faith^h came, we were confined under the law, imprisoned until

the coming faith was revealed.ⁱ ²⁴ The law, then, was our guardian until Christ,^j so that we could be justified by faith. ²⁵ But since that faith^k has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.

WE ARE ADOPTED AS GOD'S CHILDREN

- We believe in adoption at Rock of Grace, but this is the greatest example of what it means to be adopted into the kingdom of God!
 - We are undeserving of this household yet God made a space for us.
 - *Danielle Shares about our Adoption Story...*
 - *Jordan walks through a few photos first starting with Danielle holding baby Lukas... 5 or 6 photos **then leave on the slide with 3 cute photos in a red sweater .***
 - *Loving Lukas as much as our own*
 - *Wanting him to feel as loved as our bio. children*
 - *God sees you the same - no matter your bkgd, you're loved equally and passionately by Father God ...*
 - *Losing Selah in the woods - searching for her - insisting she be found ...*
 - *Lukas Adoption Video can be watched on my Facebook*
 - *Lukas Adoption Papers - Seal - Legally OURS and everything we own gets passed down to him! Our blessings...*
 - *Our home values **B.I.E.L***
 - *Brave (God gives us strength to do hard things)*
 - *Integrity (We do the right things just because it's the right thing)*
 - *Excellent (We do the best we can with what we have)*

- *Loving (We are kind and forgiving)*
 - *My plans to bless Lukas has NOTHING to do with his performance or behavior. It solely has to do with him being mine and insanely loved.*
 - *Tim Keller was quoting his favorite preacher when said what makes God the Father's love remarkable is that it has NOTHING to do with our performance. He loves us simply because He loves us.*
- **Galatians 4:4-7 CSB**
When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then God has made you an heir.
 - **Men:**
We have responsibilities that are God given as husbands, fathers, brothers, and community members.
 - **Women:**
You have responsibilities that are God given as wives, mothers, sisters, and community members.
 - **Children:**
 - You have a responsibility to respect your parents and honor them - listen to their advice, don't think you know it all - actually listen to them. They love you and care for you and want the BEST for you and that's why they give you rules - because they love you.

// Conclusion

- **Salvation:** Being adopted into the Kingdom of God
- **Commission:** WHO can you invite into God's family? Who can YOU go searching for, include, befriend and invite to church and into God's family?