

The POWER of FORGIVENESS—Lesson Four

Springfield Baptist Church

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The relationships of our family members are important to your faith foundation. The enemy wants to destroy families. Here are some reasons why:

1. Family relationships _____.
2. Family was created by God. Examine: Genesis 1:26-28 & Genesis 2:18. What is mentioned in Genesis 1 is further explained in Genesis 2. Once the enemy has you offended, he will work to _____. Often the enemy attacks _____.
3. The church is an image of _____. Examine: 2 Cor. 6:18. If God is our Father we should all look like Him. When we come to church we are family, because we've been adopted into the family of God.
4. Family stabilizes communities and churches.

If the enemy can disrupt families, he can damage God's creation, distort God's image, and destabilize society. The closer the relationship the greater the opportunity for offense. Every family _____. Sin assured that! Isn't it interesting the Bible features families that we might describe as dysfunctional.

Some dysfunctional families in scripture:

- Adam's family. (Genesis 4:1-8)
- Noah's family. (Genesis 9:20-24)
- Isaac's family. (Genesis 25:29-34)
- Jesus' family. (Luke 2:41-51)

The Bible does give us a picture of what should happen in families. One of the reasons there are problems in families is because we ignore Biblically defined roles. God's way is always the best way. Examine: Ephesians 5:21-Ephesians 6:4. Biblical roles within families:

Wife. (Eph. 5:22-24) _____. This can be a reason for offense. The way you submit in your marriage should be a picture of your submission to God in Christ.

Husband (Eph. 5:25-33) _____. In these verses the husband is charged with helping meet his wife's spiritual, emotional and physical needs.

Children. (Eph. 6:1-4) _____. Children submit to your parents. Children are more prone to obey if they see examples of obedience and submission from their parents.