

Together #For Salem: Season 2- Where do we go from here?

Part 4- Family Drama

Ephesians 6 (NLT) and Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

I. Intro

II. Intro Video

III. Welcome

IV. Message- ME

A. Intro

1. Cute kids.

B. Can I confess something... terrible?

1. I keep thinking how much better this quarantine would be if we didn't have kids.

C. I want this time to be a great family bonding time... working from home, no school, nights full of board-games, and makeshift play productions, etc.

1. Some good parts... my work pic.
2. But this isn't instagram, I'm not John Krasinski (side by side pic)... this is real life.
3. And I'm seeing the gaps in my parenting style... and no matter what I do, my kids just keep whining at me for food and attention!

4. Nothing tests a family like difficulty and adversity

V. WE

A. Might not be your situation... maybe you're having a great time with your wonderful angels... liars.

B. Maybe your kids are grown and during this time you're wishing you could have a do-over and use this time to make up for the past...

C. Maybe you don't have kids... yet...

D. Maybe you're still at home (or not haha) and it's your parents who are driving you crazy...

E. Whatever your situation, we CAN use this time/test to become more and more the family we WANT to be.

F. Every family is different... No quick 5-step plan that will fix everything.

1. But God does give us an overarching idea that can improve our family dynamics...
2. Not JF?

VI. GOD

A. Paul

B. What does love look like?

C. For Jf Families- Eph. 5:21- MUTUAL SUBMISSION

1. Submission- Giving up all of me for your good.
 - a. YOU > ME = SUBMISSION
2. Then gets specific
3. Not JF?

4. Another misused section... why you ran from the church as soon as you could... maybe even why you experienced hardship as a kid and left church in the first place.

D. V. 6:1-3

1. Done... kids just do what we tell you and we'll all be good.

- E. Growing up (by no fault of my own parents) that's all I thought Paul said about families... for some reason all the adults stopped there...

1. But God doesn't... **In God's kingdom, more authority always means more responsibility.**

- F. **V. 4**- The goal for a JF family is everyone submitting themselves for everyone else.

- G. Kids submit to their parents by obeying and honoring them.

1. BUT! The obedience isn't about the parents and their stupid rules.
2. **Obedience is trust.** Yes trusting your parents... but even more Trusting and obeying God who gave you those parents...
3. **Obedience is an action... honor is an attitude.**

- H. Honor = Respect

1. Not b/c they deserve it... they probably don't. News flash: your parents aren't perfect; nobody is...
2. But b/c that is the role God gave them in your life, ideally, to raise you to be the person God wants you to be

- I. Abuse... get out... get help... tell us.

- J. Also... there's no age limit on this...

1. You don't outgrow honoring your parents... even if they aren't living.
2. Even if they weren't great parents.

- K. BUT... Parents have the greater responsibility.

1. In a Jesus family, parents submit to their kids... giving all of themselves for their children's good.
2. Not easy... even though we have this love for them... we also have a love for our own wants, PRIDE...
3. So we "provoke them to anger." "Exasperate them (NIV)" Yes you do...

L. Examples list...

1. Double standards/hypocrisy
2. Over protection
3. Ignoring them... phone. (Parents on tablets)
4. Discipline for annoying you not to guide them... letting them know how much they annoy you.
5. Talking down... what's wrong with you? Don't you even think?
6. Being more concerned how their behavior affects you than how it affects them.
7. Or how their behavior will make people think about you. (tantrum)
8. Favoritism
9. Overbearing/ micro-managing / perfectionism
10. Trying to live through or make up for your past through them. (Will Ferrell)
11. Think about what drove you crazy about your parents... THAT.

- M. Provoking to anger... makes it almost impossible for them to do their part in submitting.

1. You know how hard it is to submit to an overbearing / unfair authority figure? Now imagine them having complete control over your life.

- N. SO what do we do?
1. Bring them up- Steady nourishment.
 2. Parents' job is to guide, support, model, and encourage what love looks like... not create little mindless rule followers.
 3. Parents are obi-wan, Dumbledore, Gandalf. (Pics)
 4. To guide them on their journey... be there to lift them when they need it... help them see who they are and can be.
 5. Children's choices are part of their journey with God. Don't let your pride get in the way of what God is teaching them.
- O. And where does a JF get this ability to wisely guide/correct/discipline?
1. V. 4b... remember it's not what does MY love look like... what does Jesus' love in me look like?
 2. "Jesus give me your love, your patience, your wisdom, your thoughts..."

VII. YOU

- A. Parents, whether JF or not, best advice I've heard on how to be this guide comes from a king of Israel almost 3000 yrs ago...

B. Prov. 22:6- [NIV]

1. "In the way **THEY** should go..."
2. Each kid is different... and needs to be handled individually... each phase of life is different too.
3. Use this time to become students of your kids.
4. Whether they are young or old... are they parents too... what do they need from you?
5. Can't ship them off to school so...
6. Study them... who are they? What makes them tick? Who are they becoming and how can you help them along on that journey?

7. Danny example...

- C. Keep the ultimate example in focus.
1. There's a reason God uses the family model to describe his relationship with us.
 2. He is the only perfect Father.
 3. He knows you better than you know yourself.
 4. Doesn't micro-manage... though he could
 5. And submitted all of himself for your good... Jesus.
 6. Remember... **Celebrate progress and let go of perfection.**
- D. Kids- Honor so that you can have long life...
1. Not necessary live longer (maybe)... but have wisdom/self-discipline... that leads to a better and maybe even longer life.
 2. **Learning to trust your Heavenly Father...** (following Jesus) **makes your life better and you better at life.**
 3. Kids... honor is a secret weapon you have right at your fingertips but so few choose to use it... 60% of the time it works every time.
 4. Think about it... Parents tell you to do something or say you can't do something... "I don't agree with this but b/c I follow Jesus I honor you; I will obey and do what you think is best."
 5. It would change every interaction AND I'll bet your parents would stop and think about their decisions/rules. (Car keys pic)

VIII. WE

- A. What if we saw the conflict we are experiencing now... as a chance to learn and grow to become the family we were created to be?

- B. What if we looked back on this Covid-19 time as the turning point for our families?
- C. What if when your kids are grown and independent they still wanted to hang out with you and you with them?
- D. What if there was more laughter than arguing?

E. The family that submits to one another enjoys one another.

- F. Next week... one good thing that we've experienced is a slow down in our schedule... maybe there's something to that that we can bring out of this experience and even carry forward.

X. Closing

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Appreciation time! :) What do you appreciate about your parent(s) and kid(s)?
2. In your family, is it easy or hard for you to submit to one another? Why do you think that is?
3. Read Phillipians 2:3-4. What is one practical way you can submit to one another in your family this week?