



PART ONE INTRODUCTION

It's often said that family is the building block of society. But what was God's original design and plan when he designed the family unit right from the start in Genesis with Adam and Eve?

In this 5-part series, we look at the value of family, particularly on what God would want us to learn about his design for the family unit. Each of us belong to a family, be it a physical, or spiritual family.

Part 1 looks at the value of love. In today's context, love is a word thrown around so freely that its meaning loses its weight. Hence, it is no wonder that the bible constantly talks about love, and Jesus Himself was the best example of love expressed in word and action. The call is for us to express that love in action (word, deed, 5 love languages etc) in our families.

In summary, we learn in part 1 that ***love has to run in the family, and it has to be expressed well.***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one joyous and unforgettable memory that you have had with your family? Why was it the most memorable?

2. Who is one person in your family whom you look up to? Why?

3. Read John 13:34-35 and Titus 2:3-4.

“I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love *and* unselfish concern for one another.” ~ John 13:34-35 (AMP)

“Older women similarly are to be reverent in their behaviour, not malicious gossips nor addicted to much wine, teaching what is right *and* good, so that they may encourage the young women to tenderly love their husbands and their children...” ~ Titus 2:3-4 (AMP)

Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.

- i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
 - ii. Read the passage aloud
 - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
 - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
 - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
 - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
 - iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
 - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
 - What is the main point or points?
 - What surprises are there?
 - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
 - v. Some meaning questions of the text:
 - How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
 - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
 - What does this teach us about God?
 - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
 - vi. Some application questions of the passage:
 - How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
 - Is there some attitude I need to change?
 - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?
4. A good resource that can help us to express love well is the “The Five Love Languages” by Dr Gary Chapman. He elaborated on these five love languages.
- i. Physical touch
 - ii. Words of Affirmation
 - iii. Acts of Service
 - iv. Gifts
 - v. Quality time

To find out your primary love language, you can go to the website for the questionnaire - <http://www.5lovelanguages.com>.

- a. How are you expressing love in your family?
- b. How would your family like love to be expressed?
- c. What is the next step God is challenging you to with regards to expressing love in your family?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Clearly, the love that Christ talks about transcends boundaries and any earthly idea of love. The matter of the fact is that in order to love others, we need to go back to the very source of that love: Christ himself.

It is often said that love is the language even the blind see, and the deaf hear; provided we express it. How would you respond and act today? Pray for each other and ask God for the strength to love others around you, especially in your family. It will not be always be smooth sailing, but by God's grace, we can express that love on a daily basis.

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

“I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another.” ~ John 13:34-35 (AMP)