

12-10-16 Children's Sunday
UNDERSTANDING FAMILY PROBLEMS

I. FAMILY PROBLEMS HAPPEN BECAUSE OF HATRED BETWEEN SIBLINGS..

Examples

1. CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

Genesis 4:2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Genesis 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

Genesis 4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

Genesis 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Genesis 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

The first great family problem is seen in this account concerning Adams first two sons. You would think that brothers would have a natural love for each other, but they did not. Instead Cain had ill feelings towards his brother.

All this proceeds from our sinful fallen nature.

Works of the flesh:

James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

James 3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

James 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Without the Lord there cannot be a close relationships in families between siblings. Carnality breeds fighting and bickering.

Those who you are closest to should be dearest to you, but instead, because of sin in our lives we become the cruelest to those who are nearest to us!

IT IS A FACT THAT MOST MURDERS OCCUR AMONG CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS.

Why do brothers and sisters fight?

The Bible says it is a characteristic of children to fight.

I Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

I Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

The only solution to this hatred and strife is Christ in your heart. He changes things.

Imagine, Jesus even said of those crucifying him:
FATHER FORGIVE THEM.

2. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS Joseph & Brothers

Joseph was preferred above his brothers because he was more noble and righteous.

The older brothers just thought of him as daddy's favorite.

But as we read in Scripture, in his character in Egypt we see that he loved the Lord and wanted to do right.

We see it in the fact that the Lord spoke to him in visions and dreams. He was in this respect a prophet of God. God revealed things to Joseph in visions and dreams.

He was righteous in fled temptations.

His brothers hated him because he was more godly than they were.

So let us not think that if we live right and do right that everyone will appreciate that about us.

So it is and always has been true that:

II Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

So the first great problem we see in families today is sibling problems. Brothers and sisters not getting along.

II. A Second problem we see in families today is Children Turning On their Parents.

A great example of heartache and problem in this regard is what we see in the case of David and Absalom.

Wayward children can be a great heartbreak for parents.

II Samuel 15:1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

II Samuel 15:2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called

unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

II Samuel 15:3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

II Samuel 15:4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

II Samuel 15:5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

II Samuel 15:6 And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

II Samuel 15:7 And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.

II Samuel 15:8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.

II Samuel 15:9 And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.

II Samuel 15:10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.

II Samuel 15:11 And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

II Samuel 15:12 And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

II Samuel 15:13 And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

II Samuel 15:14 And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

Here we have the story of a Son who has gone bad, so bad is he that if he could he would have killed his own father to further his cause.

How sad it is that a child could be so unkind and so cruel to his own earthly parents.

There is nothing more despicable than a child who shows no gratitude and honor for the parent that the Lord has placed them under.

The Bible says:

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

God places a curse on Children who dishonour their parents.

The truth is that when the Bible talks about honoring your Father and Mother it is talking about helping them out when they get old. There was no such thing as social security in the Bible . When parents got older and couldn't work it was expected that children would help them out in their older years.

Here we see Absalom stealing away the hearts of the men of Israel, stabbing his father in the back and despising all that he did for him.

There is nothing more despicable in the eyes of the Lord than a child who turns on their parents when they get older.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

God places a curse on such children.

III. The Greatest Cause Of Family Problems Is Broken Marriages.

God hates when marriages break up and end in Divorce.

Not that He hates those who have been divorced, He hates what Divorce does to a nation and a society, and I would say to the victims of it.

Malachi 2:14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

Malachi 2:15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Malachi 2:16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: **therefore take heed to your spirit**, that ye deal not treacherously.

Now it is a fact that over half of the marriages in this country end up in divorce. And the statistics are no better for church people. People are people and those who are part of the church have come out of the world for the most part and have suffered the same fate and are suffering the same.

Why is this happening:

1. FIRST OF ALL WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT MARRIAGE IS:

Marriage is a union when two people unite to make one family.

Two leave their earthly parents to become husband and wife and to become parents themselves.

Man is made up of body soul and spirit.

When two people marry the two become one flesh. Marriage is an earthly fleshly thing. In heaven there is no giving in marriage. Spirits do not marry and are not given in marriage according to Jesus.

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

The Bible says a marriage is for this life only, till death do you part.

The fact is that many people, and sometimes it seems most, are hindered in their spiritual walk because of marriage. Because when a spiritual person marries an unspiritual person their service for God is hindered. This is especially true when a spiritual man marries an unspiritual woman.

The men were warned in the Bible to be careful of marrying unbelieving woman.

Since marriage is a fleshly union it is prone to have problems from the very beginning.

Any marriage only based on the flesh is destined to have conflicts and problems.

Why? Because this is the outworking of the fruit of the flesh:

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

2. A UNION BASED ON THE FLESH IS THE WEAKEST UNION SINCE IT IS DOOMED BY THE FRUIT IT PRODUCES.

Look at the fruit of the flesh and plug in the results.

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When one of the partners in a marriage commits adultery what is that going to do to the marriage?

Fornication involves all forms of uncleanness, including pornography. What will that do to a marriage? Go down the list and think about what these vices do to a marriage.

3. IN CONTRAST TO THIS WHEN TWO PEOPLE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD THAT MARRIAGE WILL BE TEMPERED BY THE SPIRIT.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Those who have received Christ and walk in the spirit will temper the negative fruits of the flesh.

The key is to walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

A Carnal Christian will have just as bad of a marriage as a non believer.. Every believer carries with them as much of the flesh as any non believer.

**3. GOD HATES DIVORCE BECAUSE OF WHAT THIS PRODUCES IN THE VICTIMS.
THE VICTIMS ARE THE CHILDREN.**

Malachi 2:14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

Malachi 2:15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Malachi 2:16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: **therefore take heed to your spirit**, that ye deal not treacherously.

It is the Spirit that restrains the flesh, and God warns His people who are given over to this vice of putting away that it is caused by a bad spirit.

So here is what you need to have a good marriage.

**A. YOU NEED A GOOD SPIRIT TO HAVE A GOOD MARRIAGE.
THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Spiritual people do spiritual activities.

You pray together.

You study the Bible together.

You sing God's praises.

You assemble yourself together with God's people.

You serve the Lord together in his local Church.

The formula is simple.

You want to have a good marriage do these things.

If you don't do these things it is because you do not have a good spirit.

**B. SO I BELIEVE THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF FAMILY PROBLEMS IS MARRIAGE
PROBLEMS!**

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Malachi 2:16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: **therefore take heed to your spirit**, that ye deal not treacherously.

Why does the Lord hate Divorce and marital break ups?

He does so because he is seeking a godly seed.

He wants young people to grow up and be godly.

Like the Ancient Proverb states, "When the Nest Falls to the Ground their are few whole eggs."

Conclusion:

Today is Children's Sunday. it is also our annual Christmas Dinner celebration. We usually just preach a message to the children on Children's Sunday. This morning I have chosen to preach to the whole family.

Children need to learn lessons from Cain, and from Joseph's brothers, not to let the devil fill them with envy, hatred, and maliciousness against their siblings.

Children also need to learn to honor their Father and mother.

Parents need to learn to be honorable by taking heed to their spirits and maintain a good marriage in the eyes of their children.

If each of you do these things it would be the best Christmas gift you can give to your families.

This is a good recipe for a godly family, a good recipe for keeping your family strong for the Lord.