

2004 Young People's Meetings, Trott Brook, Tom Wright and Bryan Hunt

Family – Conflicts seem to cause a lot of stress in a family. How can we turn from stress to having a good time as a family and show love to each other?

Order of responsibility

1. Devotion to our Lord stands alone: Deut 6:4-5; Acts 4:19-20, 5:29; Matt 10:37, 12:46-50; Luke 14:26
- The Scriptural order is generally (with some overlap):
 - a. Family: 1 Tim 5:8; Matt 15:4-5, Eph 5:22-33, 6:1-4; Col 3:18-21; 2 Cor 12:14; John 19:26-27
 - b. Household of faith: John 13:34-35, 17:20-23; Gal 6:10
 - c. All men: Gal 6:10; 1 Pet 2:17; 1 Tim 2:1

Family relationships

1. Father/Mother with Daughter/Son
 - a. Father/daughter and mother/son relationships often spill over into marriage. Get it right at home or you probably won't when you leave. Marriage is not easier. It is harder. You'll be surprised at how selfish your wife/husband seems, and even more so how incredibly selfish you find yourself being.
 - b. Practice respect and honor. Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:18-19; 1 Pet 3:1-7; John 19:26-27
 - c. Learn wisdom from them. Prov 1:8-9. *Discuss the "My Sons" of Proverbs.*
 - d. Remember and walk in their faith. 2 Tim 1:5 – grandparents too.
 - e. Learn discipline, practice for receiving it from the Lord. Prov 13:24, 19:18; Heb 12:5-11
 - f. Learn to work and to give. 2 Thess 3:10, Eph 4:28
2. Brother/Sister
 - a. Again, these relationships often spill over into marriage. This is training for relationships with your spiritual brethren too.
 - b. Practice honoring your sibling, and putting them first. Phil 2:3-4
 - c. Practice listening and understanding. This will be key in marriage. 1 Pet 3:7
 - d. Be there in tough times. Prov 17:17
 - e. Practice forgiving. Examples: Esau, Joseph; Gen 33, 50:15-21; Matt 18:21-22; Eph 4:32
 - f. Tenderly love your little siblings. Luke 18:16-17

Conflict and possible causes:

1. Parents favor one sibling. Examples: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
2. The comparison/competition game. 2 Corinthians 10:12
3. Pride, selfishness. "Only by pride comes contention" Prov 13:10.

Resolving conflict:

1. Deal with conflict. Conflict can not go unresolved. It leads to anger, bitterness, and hatred, which is serious sin. Matt 5:21-22, 1 John 3:15. God does not want worship from you in this state. It would be a mockery, trying to worship Him while harboring a grudge, refusing to apologize, or dishonoring a brother or sister. Matt 5:23-24, 1 Pet 3:7
2. Go to the person. Matt 5:23-24, 18:15
3. Be humble. Confess your own sin to the Lord and to your brother.
4. Apologize and forgive. Gen 33, 50:15-21; Matt 18:21-22; Eph 4:32
5. Cup of cold water approach. Matthew 10:42, Prov 25:21-22, Luke 6:27-28

- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NASB 4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- Acts 5:29 NASB 29 But Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We must obey God rather than men.
- Matthew 10:37 NASB 37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.
- 1 Timothy 5:8 NASB 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.
- Matthew 15:4-6 NASB 4 "For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, LET HIM BE PUT TO DEATH.' 5 "But you say, 'Whoever shall say to his father or mother, "Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given to God," 6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.
- Galatians 6:10 NASB 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.
- Ephesians 6:1-3 NASB 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.
- 1 Peter 3:1-7 NASB 1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands 7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
- Proverbs 1:8-9 NASB 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, And do not forsake your mother's teaching; 9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, And ornaments about your neck.
- Proverbs 19:18 NASB 18 Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.
- Hebrews 12:6 NASB 6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."
- Ephesians 4:28 NASB 28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.
- Philippians 2:3-4 NASB 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
- Proverbs 17:17 NASB 17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.
- Matthew 18:15-22 NASB 15 "And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.
- Luke 18:16-17 NASB 16 But Jesus called for them, saying, "Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17 "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all."
- Matthew 5:21-24 NASB 21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. 23 "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.
- Matthew 10:42 NASB 42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he shall not lose his reward."
- Luke 6:27-28 NASB 27 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

On a card write:

Who in your family you get along with best and why. Who in your family you have the most conflict with and why. Do you have a current unresolved conflict or ongoing feud? What questions do you have?