



Leading Your Family on Mission

June 25, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:1, JOHN 16:33

In a family, every single member has a share in the responsibility to show up for each other – to be present, protect, and build the family together. How would you describe your family’s participation with one another?

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NOTES

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

Every single member of the family across every role in the family has a share in the responsibility to show up with your full **Presence**: your eyes, your heart, and your hands; to love with **Perseverance**, not giving up on each other; to **Prepare** one another for the challenges of this life; to **Protect** one another; to **Pray** with anticipation for God to do a great and mighty work in each other’s lives. And... to **Participate** in building a family together for the glory of God.

How would you describe your family’s participation with one another?

Which side would you land on these questions about your family’s participation?

- Is it encouraged? OR Is it forced?
- Is it invited? OR Is it manipulated?
- Is it freely given? OR Is it bargained for?

There are six cultural sledgehammers that present a clear risk to the way that God desires for us to build our families.

“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.”

1 Corinthians 16:13

1. Individualism is the sledgehammer against Presence.

Individualism can lead us to become so self-reliant that we stop contributing or receiving from our family and community and, instead, become like our own little islands.

2. Doubt is the sledgehammer against Perseverance.

Resist empowering your doubts to permit you to end your race before you get to the finish line.

3. Neglect is the sledgehammer against Preparation.

Don’t neglect the good gifts in front of you because the preparation feels hard.

4. Exposure is the sledgehammer against Protection.

We need to be wise about what we welcome into our hearts and minds, and what we need to keep away from us.



“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Romans 12:2

“Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

Philippians 4:8

“Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.”

1 Corinthians 6:18

5. Distraction is the sledgehammer against Prayer.

Our culture presents a whole buffet of distractions against our relationship with God, relationships with one another, and the way that we relate to ourselves.

When was the last time that you connected with your Heavenly Father in prayer, even for 5 minutes? Set your priorities.

6. Apathy is the sledgehammer against Participation.

This one might be the most dangerous. It’s the feeling that says, ‘I don’t care.’

“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”

Hebrews 4:15-16

Jesus gets us. He knows our challenges, which means he also knows how to help us overcome them.

Steps to develop a closer relationship with Jesus and a closer relationship with one another require:

- **Vision** is a clear direction of our desired future.
- **Mission** is what we do.
- **Values** define how we live.



Vision – “Lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.” *Ephesians 4:1-3*

Mission – “Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” *Ephesians 4:13*

How do we do this? By Jesus’ overcoming Spirit in us.

Values (based on Ephesians 4:25-32)

- We tell the truth.
- We do not sin in our anger.
- We do good work.
- We give to those in need.
- We use wholesome language.
- We encourage one another.
- We are kind and compassionate.
- We forgive one another just as, in Christ, God forgave us.

Vision, mission, and values keep us together when the sledgehammers swing, the seas rage, and the enemy strikes.

Don’t lose the ship. Don’t lose your family. Don’t give up on each other. Don’t give up your discipleship. Don’t give up your worship. Don’t give up your stewardship. Don’t give up your leadership. Don’t give up your friendship. Don’t give up - period.

Invite God to continue his good work in you to renew and restore your family until the day when you hear the words: “Well done, my good and faithful servant... Let’s celebrate together!”
Matthew 25:23

