

In Common

Family

We all have One

You Did Not Pick Them

We All Have Some Crazies In Our Family

(Stories of My Crazy Family)

God is The Master Of Dysfunction Families

Sampling From Genesis:

- The first recorded husband and wife disobey God (Genesis 3).
- Their firstborn commits murder (Genesis 4:8).
- Sarah's - gives her servant, Hagar, to Abraham as a to bear a surrogate child (Genesis 16)
- Sarah abuses Hagar in jealous anger. Abraham is passive in the whole affair.
- Lot, reluctant to leave sexually perverse Sodom, his home, has to be dragged out by angels and then weeks later his daughters seduce him into drunken incest (Genesis 19).
- Isaac and Rebecca play favorites with their twin boys, whose sibling rivalry becomes one of the worst in history (Genesis 25).
- Esau has no discernment. He sells his birthright for soup (Genesis 25), grieves his parents by marrying Canaanite women (Genesis 26), and nurses a 20-year murderous grudge against his conniving younger brother.
- Jacob (said conniver) manipulates and deceives his brother out of his birthright (Genesis 25) and blessing (Genesis 27).
- Uncle Laban deceives nephew Jacob by somehow smuggling Leah in as Jacob's bride instead of Rachel (Genesis 29). This results in Jacob marrying sisters — a horrible situation (see Leviticus 18:18). This births another nasty sibling rivalry where the sisters' competition for children (including giving their servants to Jacob as concubines) produce the twelve patriarchs of Israel (Genesis 30).
- Jacob's daughter, Dinah, is raped by the pagan, Shechem, who then wants to marry her. Simeon and Levi respond by massacring all the men of Shechem's town (Genesis 34).
- Jacob's oldest son, Reuben, can't resist his incestuous desires and sleeps with one of his father's concubines, the mother of some of his brothers (Genesis 35).
- Ten of Jacob's sons contemplate fratricide, but sell brother Joseph into slavery instead. Then they lie about it to their father for 22 years until Joseph exposes them (Genesis 37, 45).
- Judah, as a widower, frequented prostitutes. This occurred frequently enough

that his daughter-in-law, Tamar, whom he had dishonored, knew that if she disguised herself as one, he'd sleep with her. He did and got her pregnant (Genesis 38).

That's just the beginning. Time would fail me to talk of:

- Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10),
- Gideon's murderous son, Abimelech (Judges 9),
- Samson's un-Nazirite immorality (Judges 14–16),
- Eli's worthless sons (1 Samuel 2–4),
- Samuel's worthless sons (1 Samuel 8),
- David's sordid family (2 Samuel 11–18),
- Wise Solomon who unwisely married 1,000 women, turned from God, and whose proverbial instruction went essentially unheeded by most of his heirs (1 Kings 11–12),

Your Family

First born – type a

Baby loosey goosey

Only child

Middle Child –born between perfect child

Perfect Child

Properctored Child super kid

(1 Slide)

Gods Does Big Things In Spite of Our Crazy Family's

3 Things

1. God Created The Family
Ephesians 3:14

It Is The Best representation of God on the earth

Two Greatest Things That the Enemy Hates –
The Family and The Church

I. Secular Assumptions About Marriage:

1. Marriage is a human idea
2. Marriage evolves (for the better)

B. Attitudes toward marriage:

1. Re-evaluate marriage
2. Re-define family

“Wisdom will save you also from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman (wife) with her seductive words, who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.” Proverbs 2:16, 17 (NIV)

(1 Slide)

4 Essentials of Marriage

1. Covenant – Agreement
2. Companionship – Solidarity
3. Commitment- Convenience

“Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well...”

Proverbs 5:15 (NIV)

4. Creation

Are my views of marriage – Secular or Scriptural?

2. Every Family Functions With A Little Dysfunction

Definition–Dysfunctional is that which is not operating according to its original design; faulty, impaired, “not working properly” for optimal results.

Luke 2:41 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. **43** When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know *it*; **44** but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day’s journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances.

(left Michael in the church one time)

Family Was Designed To Turn Messes Into Mercies

Family harmony is a good desire and something to work toward. But in God’s plan, it may not be what is most needed. What may be most needed is for our family to be a crucible of grace, a place where the heat of pressure forces sin to surface providing opportunities for the gospel to be understood and applied. And when this happens the messes become mercies.

My point is this: if your family is not the epitome of harmony, take heart. God specializes in redeeming messes. See yours as an opportunity for God’s grace to become visible to your loved ones and pray hard that God will make it happen.

3. God Works In Crazy Families

1. Invite God Into It Your Family
2 Chronicles 20:13
Joshua 25:15

Obey The Instructions For Your Family

Submit One To Another In Love
Ephesians 5:21

Ephesians 6
Children Obey Your Parents in the Lord
Husbands Love Your Wives – don't be harsh with them
Fathers –Don't provoke your kids
Husbands live with your wives in understand way

Trust God With Your Family

Romans 4:17 – “God gives life to the dead and calls those things that do not exist as though they did.”

Go To God

God Loves Your Family Even If It's Crazy

God makes something out of nothing

This verse was referring to God's encounter with Abraham. God told Abraham that he would be a father of many nations. However, when God met him, Abraham had been childless for many years. The truth we can learn from the incident is that God can make something out of nothing.

Abraham did not have a son when God spoke to him. His body was way past his fertility. But God gives life to the dead and He calls things that do not exist (i.e. Abraham's son) as though they do. In God's eyes, Abraham was already a father even though physically, he was not.

3. God brings dead relationships to life

God too can bring dead relationships to life. A good relationship between you and your spouse or child may now not exist, but God promises that if you believe in Him, He can call up relationships that do not exist as though they do. You can

trust God to restore your strained and broken relationships because He can make something out of nothing.

In Genesis 1, we read that the earth was formless and empty, i.e. there was nothing. Yet when God spoke “Let there be light” and there was light. In the same way, He spoke everything into existence when previously they were not existent eg. sky, vegetation, sun, moon, etc. God also can speak into your empty relationship and make it full again.

4. Have faith in God

Like Abraham, you need to have faith in God who will restore your relationships. Without faith, God will not work. God doesn’t work according to needs. He works according to faith. To have faith in God means that you are sure of what you hope for, you are certain of what you cannot see (Hebrews 11:1). Tell God that you will have faith in Him to restore your relationships. Thank Him for helping you. When you speak in faith, you are following God’s example of calling into existence the things that don’t exist.

Of course, it was not long before Adam and Eve sinned and fell under the judgment of God. When most of us think about the consequences of humanity’s fall into sin, our minds turn toward the physical and spiritual death that came to our first parents and to all of their descendants (**Rom. 5:12**). We also recall God’s curse on nature and how it makes human life difficult until Christ returns in glory (8:18–25). As important as these features of our fallen condition may be, the opening chapters of Genesis emphasize something else. The Scriptures stress how God’s judgment against our first parents was directed toward the family. God indicated as much when He said to Eve: “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing” (**Gen. 3:16**). Eve’s reaction to Abel’s death indicated that her maternal pain not only included physical childbirth but also the emotional grief caused by the waywardness of her children (4:25). The familial focus of God’s judgment also becomes evident in the disharmony that grew between Adam and Eve: “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you” (3:16). Moreover, God warned Adam “in pain you shall eat” (v. 17), indicating that providing for the physical needs of his family would be riddled with hardship. The early chapters of Genesis explain that the brokenness of nearly every facet of family life stems from God’s judgment against our first parents.

