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FIGHTING

with my family

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"SERIE: FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY"

FOUR KINDS OF LOVE

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:12-13 NLT)

ILLUSTRATION:

In a university in Greece, students conducted an investigation to discover ways in which people love. They discovered that there are four kinds of love.

INTRODUCTION:

People have a misconception on what true love is. We all have different ideas of what that love is. Many love with egotistical motives, but what is true love? The four types of love are:

1. "Eros" love

- This is erotic, pleasurable and sexual love. It is what the majority of people have and confuse with true love.

- This is not the type of love that our Lord Jesus refers to in John 15:12. This love is not healthy in a home, because it has to do with dirty or illicit sex. Sex and love are not the same thing.

2. "Philia" love.

- This is love shared by friends. It can sometimes be an unhealthy love, because this type of love is "I give, you give." It is a conditional love. There are many homes

like this: "If you treat me well, I'll treat you well. If you give me, I'll give you. The day you fail me, don't count on me anymore. You offended me, I'm leaving." This is not true love.

- When we were kids, our parents would show us their love by rewarding us for good conduct or grades. Maybe we believe that that is love and will do the same thing with our own kids and husband/wife.

- There are parents who have left their children back in their home countries, and because they feel so guilty, they send them gifts thinking that that will show them love. However, this also is not true love.

3. "Storge" love.

- This is love between husband and wife, or between parents and children. This is also conditional love because it involves outward appearances.

4. "Agape" love.

(1 Cor. 13) This is a genuine love. It's the love that our Lord Jesus gave to us. It is an unconditional and divine love. He gave it all, and he didn't say, "but don't reject me." (Romans 5:8)

- This is the kind of love that is required in a marriage, because it is a pact that we do before God when we get married. Marriage is not a union of two, but of three (God and the spouses).

- Love is not a sentiment, it is a decision. God left this kind of love as a commandment, as a law (John 15:12), and he also left us Matthew 22:39 “love your neighbor as yourself”, “he who finds a wife finds a good thing.” If you love yourself, you will take good care of the good that God has given you. You should love your wife/husband with this kind of love, because you made this promise unto God on the altar.

- What was Jesus’ love? People would attack him, and he would still love them. His disciples failed him, but he continued to love them. He died for those who rejected Him.

- (John 15:13). Sometimes we say that we would give our lives for our friends, but your best friends should first be in your home. Before having outside friends, you should have friends at home. Your best friend should be your spouse and children.

- In this love, there is no arguing, debating, or demanding. We love each other just because we do. (1 Corinthians 13)

CONCLUSION: There is no perfect home or marriage. Even though there are different kinds of loves, the one that should dominate, that Je-

sus spoke of and practiced, is agape love. It is unconditional and if you practice it, you will live your entire life blessing your spouse and children.

SALVATION PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I recognize that I am a sinner and that you died for me. Today I repent, and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS: What kind of love is in your marriage or with your children? What did God speak to you with this lesson? What do you need to change or implement in your life to live with agape love?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Ask God to help you show that unconditional love to your spouse and children, and to consider each other best friends; that you see your spouse and children as your best friends and your children see you as their best friends.

- Fight for your marriage and children. Ask God to keep you from being part of the statistics of failed marriages because they had different loves.

- This week, work on getting closer to your spouse and children and begin to cultivate more friendship with them. Tell them how much you love them and given them quality time, etc.

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HOW TO RENEW THE RELATIONSHIP IN A MARRIAGE?

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. (1 Corinthians 13:4-5,7 NLT).

INTRODUCTION:

Why renew it? Because marriage begins nicely, and it starts to deteriorate over time. The first few months are very emotional, and we treat each other sweetly, but, at what point is that lost? Problems, disagreements, differences, stress, work, routine, familiarity, etc. places distance between us. When children come, quality time as spouses changes. Love begins to be lost and we get used to it. What can we do to renew the relationship in our marriage?

1. The other does not want to change. (1 Cor 13:5b)

- We must understand that we are different, but we also need to have unity in the essentials, respect in differences, and love in all things.
- No matter how much we want to change our spouse, there will be more resistance on their part.
- Change yourself, and don't become bit-

ter over the situation. Ask God to give you wisdom and direction (only when it's not a toxic situation).

2. Learn to maintain a fun home. (Ecc 8:15)

Life was not given to us to live sad, bitter, and angry. God created us to enjoy life.

- Love should not be boring. We should celebrate many things, eat out at different places and try new things.
- If the children drew near to Jesus it was because he was fun and friendly. If he were boring or serious, they would not have done it.
- This environment should also be created with children. If not, they enclose themselves in their rooms. If the parents are bitter, the children will grow to be the same way.
- No one wants to arrive to a boring or hostile place. That's why there are some husbands who prefer to work overtime or

go out with friends than be at home.

CONCLUSION: Maybe you grew up in a toxic, serious, or strict environment and you didn't have an example to follow. That is why it is so important to learn about having a good home and investing in it.

SALVATION PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so you can be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS: What did

you learn from this lesson? What do you need to implement in your own life? What do you need to do for your children to be happy at home? What can you do for your spouse or children that makes them enjoy being with you?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Think of some creative ideas that you can implement in your marriage to come out of the rut.
- Plan something fun and different that you can do with your children.



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FORGIVENESS IN MARRIAGE

...and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who sin against us. (Matthew 6:12 NTV)

ILLUSTRATION:

A son to his father - Dad, I want to get married.
 Father - First ask for forgiveness.
 Son- But what did I do? Father - Ask for forgiveness, just do it.

INTRODUCTION:

Everyone has offended us, but we have all offended others as well. This happens more in marriage, because regularly with friends we are more tolerant and more patient. However, at home we show our true selves because of the trust we have, for that reason we must forgive daily. The way to have peace in marriage and in your home in the long term, is living in continuous forgiveness.

1. What is forgiveness?

- Forgiveness does not mean forgetting. The evidence we have after forgiving is when it no longer hurts and does not affect us.
- It is not ignoring or pretending that it has not happened.
- It is not to say that "it did not hurt" because we hurt each other, and the pain is

real.

2. Forgiveness is not the same as trust. There are people in a situation where there is domestic violence, verbal or physical abuse, but if they know their life is in danger, they should not stay there. God does not want anyone to be in a condition like this, there are laws for cases like these.

- Forgiveness is immediate, but trust is a process.
- Forgiveness is free, but trust costs to earn it once again.
- Forgiveness is unconditional, but trust must show the fruits of repentance.
- Forgiveness is the responsibility of the victim, but trust is the responsibility of the offender.

3. In the family we will find these types of situations:

- Many times, we come carrying childhood wounds to our marriage. We come with that resentment and bitterness because we have not forgiven and that af-

fects us in marriage.

- Many bring the wounds well stored and take them out when they touch the sore, like when you hit a finger with a hammer, and if they touch you or hit you on the same finger with something else, it will hurt!

- If we had an authoritarian or violent father, and we married an equal person, we will react badly when a situation arises because we will remember that image of our past and we will become defensive.

4. REASONS FOR WHICH WE SHOULD FORGIVE. (Hebrews 12:15 NLT)

God does not want us to be sick. If you do not heal your heart, you can lose your marriage and good friends. Not forgiving steals God's blessings. Not forgiving ruins you and ruins your home. The bitterness comes from the lack of forgiveness. There are many people who find it hard to forgive.

The three reasons are:

- Because I have been forgiven in the past. We have all been recipients of God's forgiveness and someone's forgiveness.
- Because today I need forgiveness.
- Because I will need forgiveness in the future.

CONCLUSION:

We have all been rough, impatient and have offended. If we want to have peace in our home and be happy, we must live in continuous forgiveness. But the first thing to achieve is to have Jesus in our hearts.

PRAYER OF SALVATION:

Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so that you may be my personal Lord and Savior, Amen.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

Do you have a wound from the past that has not healed yet?

Is there peace in your home or is there something you have to work on?

Do you need to regain the trust from someone in your home?

Have you lost something because of lack of forgiveness?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Ask God to show you if there is lack of forgiveness in your heart.
- Every morning in your prayer time, forgive all those who have offended you by name.
- Ask for forgiveness from the people in your home to those that you have offended.

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WHAT IMPEDES US FROM REACHING SUCCES IN THE FAMILY?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. (Hebrews 12:1 NLT)

INTRODUCTION:

We all have a race to run, but sometimes it seems as if families are in competition with one another. However, we shouldn't be competing with anyone, because we each have different roles and assignments.

We should run the family race with patience, so we finish well. What impedes us from finishing the race successfully?

1. Lack of preparation.

- This starts with the decision we make when we choose who to marry. We don't research beforehand to know whether or not it would benefit us to marry that person: whether they are responsible or not, if they are Christian or not, their values, etc.

- Lack of preparation when the time to have children comes.

2. Indifferent parents: Present physically, but absent emotionally.

- Those who don't care if their children eat or don't eat, what they eat, how they dress, or how they stay up late every night on their

phones. As a result, these children don't go to school focused because they don't sleep well, eat well, or have good relationships at home because they practically live unattended.

- Children who come from a past relationship and live in a toxic environment where they do not feel loved. They fall asleep without a hug or prayer.

- That is why many children grow up to become criminals and delinquents.

3. Parents who spoil:

- The most important phase is childhood. It has been proven that from infancy, babies understand when you correct them, but many parents don't give that correction, so kids enjoy throwing tantrums.

- They buy them everything and give them the best things as children, but they do not educate them or guide them with good advice.

- However, when the children grow, the parents cannot deal with them anymore and have to send them away to be educated be-

cause they became rebellious and unmanageable. But, the role of mother and father cannot be done by anyone else.

4. Abusive and overly-strict parents: They don't know how to teach, and they go overboard with violence and harsh words that mark their children's hearts. They leave behind trauma and rejection.

5. Parents that work all the time. They only think about making money and are never home, but children need time with mom and dad. Before they even know it, their children are lost, going down the wrong path.

TIPS TO HAVE SUCCESS WITH YOUR CHILDREN:

1. Don't be afraid (2 Timothy 1:7).

- We weren't born knowing everything. We have been taught on the way, so if God has given you the privilege of being a parent, don't be afraid.
- God has given you power, love, and self-control. If you have these three things, you will be able to be a good parent, take care of your kids and give them wise advice.

2. Educate yourself as a parent. (2 Timothy 3:16) Your manual should be the Bible to walk in the truth.

3. Teach your children to walk down God's path. (Proverbs 22:6) They are our inheritance given by God. He has entrusted us with them to

educate them, lead them down the right path, and teach them the fear of God.

4. Take care of associations. Don't expose your children to toxic environments that can cause them damage. On the contrary, go to church with them to learn Biblical principles and relate with people who are also interested in family success.

CONCLUSION: No one can educate your children for you. We all have a race we need to run, and we must prepare our children to run the race of life and teach them values so they can have success in life. Bringing children into this world is easy, but being a real parent is not. However, with God's guidance we can do anything.

SALVATION PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so you can be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS: What type of parent did you identify with? What changes do you need to make? What has worked with your kids? What associations do you need to change?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Begin to get closer to your kids and if forgiveness is needed, ask for forgiveness.
- Pray and read God's Word every day so that you can be an example to your children and have tools to educate them in God's ways.
- Begin to socialize with people who have had success with their children.

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DIFFERENT NEEDS IN A MARRIAGE

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her. (Ephesians 5:25 NLT)

ILLUSTRATION:

There was once a husband who was a perfectionist, and he always noticed many details in his home that everything had to be just the way he liked it. The wife was very spontaneous and joyful, but as the months passed, she became oppressed by her husband's way of being. However, thank God that he was able to realize that his attitude was provoking his wife to not feel happy. So, he asked for forgiveness because he understood that they were different and didn't want to risk his wife and marriage for such unimportant things. Are you provoking the differences in your marriage to separate you?

INTRODUCTION:

God made us all different. We all come from different cultures and upbringings, and even if you marry someone from a different country, this could cause problems in your marriage over time. Even if it seemed fine while you were dating and what you liked while you were dating ended up being what you disliked once you were married. We need to learn that not everything we learned from our parents will apply to our own marriage. We all come with different

baggage into marriage.

1. We are all different

- Some come from dysfunctional homes, homes where there was no respect and only shouting.
- One is extroverted, jovial and happy while the other is introverted and quiet.
- Christ loved us even in our differences.
- Friends enjoy those differences, so how come marriage isn't like that?
- The differences that attracted you to your partner when you were dating them could destroy the relationship if you don't take care of it.
- We should celebrate differences, because it would be boring if both were the same.

2. What is man's greatest need? (Ephesians 5:33)

Respect. Man does anything out of respect. Re-

spect is very important to them and they need to feel like a lion in a wilderness, affirmed, like the one who conquers, achieves, and reaches goals. He should be affirmed not only at work, but at home as well.

3. What is a woman's greatest need?

It's love, and this encompasses many things: comprehension, not lose identity due to marriage, respect in her way of thinking and being, and mutual support.

4. Love is needed in a marriage. Love should be greater than any difference. "If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;[a] but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing" (1 Co. 13:3 NTV)

CONCLUSION:

In marriage, someone needs to sacrifice. Someone has to die to self, if not both. At least one of you has to want a change or restoration to better your marriage. Maybe you hadn't understood these differences, but start by making changes and applying what you've learned today. But the first thing that needs to be done to have a

healthy marriage is let Jesus be the center of your life and marriage.

SALVATION PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so you can be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS: What can you do to better your relationship and have a healthy marriage? Are you satisfying the needs your spouse has? What attracted you to your spouse when you met them?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- In the group, talk about things you saw in your parents that you feel has affected you in your marriage.
- Begin to bring in love and respect toward your spouse and children in your home.
- Ask your spouse and children what necessary changes to make so they feel loved and respected?



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