

GET CONNECTED

So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.
(Genesis 2:21-24 NLT)

INTRODUCTION: Family was God's plan and He designed marriage for people to live in harmony, unity, connected within husband and wife and parents and children. Unfortunately, this is not what we see in most families nowadays, rather a disconnection has occurred and what has caused it is not what's on the streets, but these problems begin in the home.

1. FOUR THINGS HAVE CAUSED THIS DISCONNECTION:

- **Lack of education within the family.** (Joshua 24:14-15) Within this point is found the values we teach. Values should be exemplified, because parents are a model for their children. If you tell your children not to smoke, you shouldn't do it either. You will have a disconnection when you tell them to do something and you don't do it yourself. We should teach them values that will lead them to success.
- **Lack of knowledge within the family.** Lack of not knowing what we should know, as sometimes us parents ignore many of our childrens' things. Sometimes, lack of trust doesn't allow

our children to tell us everything, other times it's because parents are impatient and aren't conscious that children make mistakes and aren't perfect. When their children mess up, they react badly. It can also be due to lack of comprehension for not understanding that they also experience stress because of school, exams, and other activities.

- **Lack of correction within the family.** Correction is not wrong, but there are parents that correct wrongly or don't correct at all and that is harmful. If we don't correct our children on time, it can be too late and cause them death. It's not only getting angry for that they do wrong, but we should speak to them and discipline them in the correct way.
- **Lack of communication and quality time within the family.** Lack of these factors cause disconnection. More quality time is needed to be dedicated to family. Love for them is translated into TIME.

2. THE WORD, “CONNECT”. Nowadays, technology has a fundamental role in our lives and when we hear the word “connect” we think, what do we connect to? Facebook, Instagram? Well, the idea of getting connected is precisely disconnecting from social media to reconnect with your family and fulfill God’s design for your marriage and family. How many have seen how cellphones can steal quality time with family? Cellphones were made to cut distances, not to elongate conversations.

3. WHAT CAUSES DISCONNECTION?

King David was a great man. He helped many people, was a great warrior, king who governed for forty years, Psalmist and he wrote the majority of Psalms in the Bible. He was a man that was after God’s own heart, and God wants us to learn from all the good that David did. However, He also wants us to learn from the wrong he did, and one of his mistakes was that he wasn’t a good father. He had so many women and children that he suffered a disconnection with them. In the Bible, we see that David did not transmit the values God had placed in his heart to his children. (*1 Chronicles 3:1-9*)

CONCLUSION: *The first ministry of parents are their families, their children. They need you more than anything and God will ask you to be accountable for them.*

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 do you think has caused a disconnection within your family?
- Do you know what your children see on the Internet? Do you give quality time to your children?
- What can you do to reconnect with them?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Begin to intentionally connect with your children this week, planning to go out with each of them individually to know them better.
- Plan to spend quality time with them at least once a week, doing what they like to do. This can be going to the park, theater, cooking together, etc. and make a rule to not use cellphones.

GET CONNECTED II

Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children.

Those who love their children care enough to discipline them. (Proverbs 13:24 NLT)

INTRODUCTION: *A true man of God that is successful is he who takes care of his family and gives them quality time. It's not only having success in business and in ministry, but in the home. How do you know when someone is a good leader? Spend 5 minutes with their children.*

ILLUSTRATION: *During his last days, King David was so cold that instead of his children being with him, they called for a strange woman to go and care for him and give him warmth. That is why it is so important for us to connect with our children. (1 Kings 1:1-2)*

1. WHAT DO CHILDREN WANT THEIR PARENTS TO KNOW?

- That they don't like to be compared, that hurts them.
- They don't like being overprotected.
- They do want to have a good relationship with their parents.

2. WHAT THINGS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO HAVE A GOOD CONNECTION WITH YOUR CHILDREN?

- Interest yourself in what they like.
- For parents to also leave their cellphones aside to be able to spend more quality time with their children, without any distractions.

3. WHAT DO PARENTS IGNORE ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN?

- They see things that aren't good on their phones. It's good to respect their privacy, but not entirely. Parents

should be alert to what their children are watching.

- Technology is robbing the innocence of our children and changing their original way of being, thinking, their mind, faith, and image. They have access to so many things like pornography. We need to be careful and not only give them the cellphone and leave them alone, but care for what they are watching and place time limits on the internet.

4. WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO THEM TO COME TO THEIR PARENTS WHEN THEY MAKE A MISTAKE?

- Because of how their parents react. They react badly, with rejection or anger.
- Because they do not spend much time together and trust has not been developed.

5. WHAT DO YOUTH THINK ABOUT CORRECTION AND LIMITS?

Correction is not wrong. What is wrong is the way in which it is done. Correction is sometimes done in an angry way and at times, parents use the authority and power they know they have to do whatever they want, and that is why the youth react in a wrong way. Children are not in disagreement with correction, they are just in disagreement with the way it is sometimes done.

Parents correct your children, but with love and wisdom because sometimes, we do it in a way that is too harsh or with hurtful words, which can cause

resentment in the hearts of our children. We should listen to them before coming up with our own explanations. Children want to be able to express themselves or give their own explanation.

6. WHAT CAUSES DISCONNECTION IN A FAMILY? Lack of correction. (*Prov. 13:24*)

King David did not know how to correct his children. Amnon violated his sister, Tamar, and the Bible says that David simply became angry, but did not do anything else. The lack of correction caused Amnon death some years later.

There was a disconnection between both of them, and King David did not know what was on his son's mind. Do you know who did know what was going on in his mind? A friend who gave him bad advice. Sometimes, due to disconnection, we don't realize what is going through our children's mind, we don't give them good advice, but, there will be friends that aren't good and do know what is happening and give them bad advice. That is why it is necessary for us to connect with our children.

When Solomon, King David's other son, found out that Amnon had violated his sister, he killed him. Since the father did not correct his son, the brother had to correct him through death. How many times have we had problems with one of our children because we discipline the older ones and not the little ones?

One child was lost and because of lack of correction, another child also became lost.

Another disconnection David had was with his son named Adonijah, who proclaimed himself king when it should've been Solomon. What did King David do? Nothing.

After Solomon rebelled against his father, David, what did he do? Nothing. David fled instead of confronting the situation. Solomon wanted to kill his father, and sometimes we see that on the news. Children killing their parents or hitting them due to lack of correction when they were young.

CONCLUSION: David did not know how to correct his children. He had a disconnection with them and did not know how to help them. Instead of correcting them, he would simply become angry and not do anything else. We shouldn't get angry, rather correct our children.

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 heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

- What mistakes do you think are the most common for you to make as a parent?
- What things will you implement to be able to connect with your children?
- Do you think the way you have been correcting your children is correct?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- To connect with your children, you should learn how to communicate with them and get to their level. They do not think the same way you think or see things like you do.
- You should enjoy your children while God gives you the opportunity. The conversation from last year does not do you any good anymore. Play with them while they still want to. Plan to do something together this week.

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. (Philippians 2:1-2 NLT)

INTRODUCTION:

In the dictionary, unity means: union of thoughts and feelings of many people. That is the power that caused the Holy Spirit to descend over everybody on the day of Pentecost, because they were united together. They all wanted the same thing, and that power of unity caused God's power to manifest in their lives. In that descent, their lives changed forever.

1. WE SHOULD UNITE IN WHAT IS GOOD.

- Unity in itself is neutral until it is defined by the word of God. When unity is caused by something good and Biblical, it causes a difference in the world. There can be unity in something good, but also in bad things.
- In this world, we have seen the power of many people united, but for something that is antibiblical, bad. For example: abortion, gay marriage, etc.

However, there is also power when people unite against abortion to make a difference in the world, because abortion is antibiblical, just like gay marriage, because our fight is not against the flesh but spirits that move in people. That is why, we need to be united in what is good.

- Herod and Pilate (*Luke 23:11-12*) joined together to judge Jesus and caused power for his crucifixion. There are many people that leave church and join together to judge something they didn't like.
- Paul and Silas (*Acts 16:22-26*). They were in jail with no possibility of escaping. They were in chains, but by their unity they began to praise and worship God and suddenly, a temblor shocked the earth and the jail doors opened and their chains fell. All of the prisoners were also freed. Maybe sometimes you have felt chained by problems or sickness, but when there is unity, when we sing and pray, we cause those chains to break and doors to open. We cause the freedom of God's children.

1. WE SHOULD NEVER ISOLATE OURSELVES. *(Matthew 18:18-20)*

- The presence of God manifests where there is unity. That is why you shouldn't isolate yourself or simply let the problem pass. What you are going through does not matter, when we unite and prohibit something on earth, it is also prohibited in heaven. Together we have the power to prohibit sickness, divorce, etc. No matter what the situation may be like in your home, together, we have the power to change circumstances through unity in prayer. Together we have the power to prohibit sickness, poverty, and everything else that may stop God's purpose in our lives. No matter how big the giant may be, we can overcome the battle and win the victory in Jesus Christ.
- God operates in unity, not in division. If you are going through problems, you need to join a HOP, search for a leader or mentor, and friends who can help you go through these problems.
- We must unite in prayer and fasting for people who are going through a heavy problem, are in a hospital, and we can't be indifferent because as we do it for someone else, they will be there for us when we are in need as well. There is power in unity and we are better together.

CONCLUSION: *Do we have a compassionate heart or indifferent and apathetic heart? Is your philosophy, "As long as I'm fine, let the world fall"? God is interested in us being "together" because He knows*

the power there is when we are together and the weakness there is when there is division. In unity there are many things: strength, power, energy, chains breaking, winning battles, overcoming depression, spirits of death, etc. In unity, it is easier to go through problems. You don't have to go through problems alone.

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 heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

- Do you have compassion for other's needs or are you indifferent?
- What difference does it make in your life to go through problems with others' support?
- What benefits have you found by belonging to a HOP?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- If you know of a person that is going through a problem, plan to visit them, bring a gift, or pray for them.
- Join together in prayer and fasting if there is a difficult situation someone is going through so that the person can achieve a breakthrough in that situation.