

Family Matters

Introduction: I can't think of a time of year when we think more about family and relationships. For many, it is a time of joy with the idea of being together always being a good thing. For others, "togetherness" is a cause of great stress. God never promised anyone stress-less living, but he does offer good advice on how to cope.

1. The Fantastic Family (Stinnets and Beams)
 - A. Has everyone committed to the well-being of the family unit.
 - B. Expresses appreciation regularly.
 - C. Shares positive communication.
 - D. Spends time together.
 - E. Nurtures spiritual well-being.
 - F. Learns to cope with stress and crisis.

2. Thoughts regarding managing your imperfect situation
 - A. God has made it so you can deal with your world's shortcomings – Jesus
 - B. Why aren't families the way they should be? Consider first family.
 - C. How are you doing with the principle stated in Romans 12:18? "What about John?" Note Jesus' reply. John 21:20-23
 - D. How are you doing in the race to "outdo one another in showing honor"? Rom. 12:10; Ephesians 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:3-4, 8; 1 Peter 3:7; 2:17
 - E. What is your technique for showing someone you're hurt? Romans 12:19-20
 - F. How are you with the "with stuff"? Rom. 12:15
 - G. Do you share joy as often, or more than you share disappointment or pain?
 - H. Let other people decide whether you "bring a lot to the table". Romans 12:15
 - I. Love should define my life more than my frustration with my imperfect world. Remember First John.

Conclusion: We can learn and grow from our family and family-like experiences. If we do, our sense of well-being will grow with it. God created us to "not be alone" but to be a part of something greater than ourselves. If we live it, we can't help but learn more about God and why he made us. All things "family" truly matter.