

Love Reaches! Part 5: "Reaching Family!"

Don't take "life" for granted... not anyone's life!

Last week in our "Love Reaches" study we began reaching out sideways! After reaching up to God, the source of our lives, we reach out to each other... To the good side and the "not as good" side!

We went to the extreme edge of the "unfamiliar" side! All of us have one... peers that we don't know so much but deal with regularly! People on the "far side" of our lives that are hard to deal with... Frenemies... like them okay, but they can hurt us by what they say, do...

We tend to want to pull away from them but we get some of life's best lessons from there! A life given to God cannot do anything but grow from every circumstance of life!

So we looked out on the edge of that side and today we'll look at the far edge on the other!

The "good" side... Is for building us up, patching us up, helping us get back on track! Not always good for "wrecking" us... Tend to be very "absorbent!" Selective sight and hearing! More "finger nail filing" than "iron sharpening iron!" More "cheerleading than challenging!" More "comforter tucking" than "pulling back the covers!"

"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Lk 7.23

"What would it profit a man to save the world and lose his own family?"

Matthew 12.48-50 Who is My mother? And who are My brothers? And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, 'Behold My mother and My brothers! *For whosoever does the will of My Father which is in heaven is My brother and sister and mother!*'

Caveat! Deep and hard truth placed in that verse of scripture... But if your loved ones have gone on already, don't want you burdened by mistaken application... No one is solely responsible for someone else coming to Jesus... But we are being called to become responsible in our reach to the living...

Extrapolation... A projection based on known information about the kingdom of God! ***The only mothers and father's, brothers and sisters we are going to have with us in heaven... Are those who have come in thru Jesus...***

"This is the work of God that you believe on Him whom He has sent... this is the will of God who sent Me, that everyone who sees Me believes in Me and receives everlasting life!" **John 6.28,40**

And if they don't hear about Him... R10.14 Or see the kingdom alive in us... 1C11.1 We will have to accept "others" who have done God's will, in their place! Mt12.48-50

We need to win the world but we must start with, and engage, our own families!

No matter... How dysfunctional/broken/painful... "Not resisted unto blood..." **How personally busy...** "What does it profit to gain the world?" **We must overcome it all and go, or send someone, to them with the truth!** "How can they believe... without a proclaimer?" **And eternity is in the balance!**

We hesitate for... Lack of courage? "I come to you in the name of the Lord!" "He who is ashamed of Me I will be ashamed of him!" **Mk 8.38 2Tim 1.8 Lack of honesty?** "Am I your enemy because I tell you the truth?" **Gal4.16 Lack of creativity?** "All things to all, to win some!" **1C9.22 Lack of success?** "Tried and tried, didn't work!" Today

is not yesterday, people evolve, circumstances are not the same! **Track record of failure?** They know my failures and they're just not buying it! "None righteous, no not one!" "All fallen short" requiring a Savior!

"I'm not here because I'm perfect but because I've been freed to speak!"

1Corinthians 9.24ff [in this matter of doing what I must to save some] I run the race to win... **v24** Don't always succeed, keep on running! Every one that wants the crown, is temperate in all things... **v25** Not just one shot at the ring... constant. In it to win it! **v26** Keep my "body" under/flesh not leading my performance! **v27** Don't let myself be overthrown! **10.5**

What to do? Husbands, love your wives like Jesus loves the Church, giving Himself for it... Not saved? Demonstrate the love of God! Saved? Don't let anything stand in the way of her potential in God!

Wives, love your husbands like the Church is supposed to love Jesus... Win your unsaved husbands by the quality of your lifestyle! Love and honor your saved husbands into fullness of love and leadership!

Father's, rule your children well! Not subjugate but model God's fatherhood! Saved or unsaved: "bring them up in the way they should go!"

Mother's care for your kids... "Look well to the ways of your household... so your children rise up to called you 'blessed!'"

Mom's and dad's don't forget "in laws!"

Children, love and honor your parents... If they are unsaved you show them the love and respect that will draw them! Lifestyle evangelism! Saved? Then be the glory of their old age!

Every one: Love and care for the members of your household! Brothers/sisters, Aunt's/uncles/cousins... Help them to know and do the will of God in their lives!

Give your family your best efforts of evangelism and discipleship! Not the leftovers!

Give your family your best efforts of evangelism and discipleship! And include them in the effort!

Give your family your best efforts of evangelism and discipleship! Because it's the way God designed life and ministry to flow – thru a saved and established family!