

FAMILY MATTERS Pt 2

● Overview -

- We will talk about the family, looking to scripture to understand our roles, our responsibilities, what is the purpose of the family structure.
- We will look at the church family. What are our roles, what are the obstacles, what is the purpose of the church.
- We will look at both the home and the church through the lens of scripture instead of our experience and hopefully gain a better understanding
- Understanding that how we view something, determines how we interact with it.
 - If we view our homes through the flawed lens of our culture or our upbringing instead of scripture, we will survive instead of thrive
 - Do we see the church as a restaurant or a home. A place to be served or serve? If we view the church as a place to be served rather than a place to serve, we will be confused, frustrated and miss out on all of the benefits.
 - *Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
 - We can't just hope we get it right, our family and our church family needs us to set aside our experience, our traditions, our traumas and look at scripture for how this should all look
- Last week we looked at scripture and realized that the church was always a movement of people, not a monument or a building. Church literally means a group of people called out for a purpose.
- We can view church as family and join the movement or we can view it as a consumer and observe from the sidelines.
- We challenged believers to commit to the family of God and don't let hard things keep them from the benefits of family. Family refuses to quit their family during times of awkwardness, conflict, and miscommunication because the benefits are worth it.

● **How we view the church matters?**

- How you view something is determines how you interact with it
 - Is the church a business or a family?
 - Is this a place to serve or be served?
 - Is this a place of observation or purposeful effort?
 - Is this a place of ease, convenience or challenge, development?
- Consumer culture in America is opposed to Kingdom culture.
 - We routinely pay to make our lives easier.
 - You can pay someone to cook for you, no dishes, no cooking
 - You can pay someone to bring your food to you, no driving
 - You can pay a robot to vacuum your house, sit down
 - You can pay someone to grocery shop for you, relax
 - Our consumer mindset is in our DNA and it doesn't shut off because we came to church.
 - We routinely pay to provide ourselves with convenience/comfort
 - That's not how the kingdom of God works, the family of God
- The church is just as guilty as the consumer is, we do our best to make things easy, to not inconvenience anyone, removing difficulty or frustrations but ultimately that doesn't describe a family, and it doesn't produce growth and maturity.
 - You can't pay someone to work out for you and gain any results
 - If you're going to grow muscle, you must lay aside comfort and convenience. You must engage, face opposition, and struggle in order to mature.
 - Families mature you, businesses try to remove inconvenience.
 - We can have a family view of the church or a consumer view
 - One produces commitment, maturity, and eternal results
 - The other puts you in a church building once a week.

● **Family Not Business**

- Banning Liebscher uses the example that if you view your home as a restaurant. You'll be pretty frustrated and confused.
 - You'll come in from work and sit down at the table. After waiting for an hour you'll be offended that someone didn't bring you bread and something to drink.
 - If you're in a home, you get up and get you something

- Better yet you Get up and help prepare a meal
- Better yet you may need to help clean up.
- It's what families do.
- If we view our church as family it starts to make sense why they insist on you getting involved, constantly talk about you serving. That's what you do in a family. You don't watch people work, you help out.
- But when people view the church as a business, they come in and expect someone to serve them the word, serve them worship, prayer.
 - What does that do to a believer if they only come once a week, they are served one time, the only nutrients they will consume all week. Won't that make them weak, cause them to struggle, leave them dependent on someone serving them.
- Please don't mistake our church for a business, it's family.
 - We're not a cruise ship, we're a battle ship, we're not beach resort we are a military training base. Different expectations when you compare those...
 - Battleship/military base - on duty, prepared, constant training, focused on the mission, working closely w/others.
 - Cruise ship/beach - Laying around, food/drink prepared for you, served to you, not responsible for anything
 - Francis Chan - "We have to stop viewing church leaders as people who minister to us. God clearly explained their role. It was not to coddle you but to equip you. Think personal trainer, not massage therapist.
 - *"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-12"*
 - Personal trainer not a massage therapist
 - Expectations, challenge, difficulty, goals, progress, encouragement, provoking,
 - Laying there... Rolling over...
 - What do you come expecting, when you come to church? To be served or developed?

● **Family's are designed to develop you.**

- The bible repeatedly refers to the church as a family
 - *"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:19*
 - *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family (Household) of believers." Galatians 6:10*
 - *"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." Ephesians 2:19*
- **Church Structure / Family language**
 - *Ephesians 4:11 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [e]difying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children,*
 - He lays out the structure of the church
 - He gave these positions, gifts for what reason?
 - To equip you so you can do ministry
 - What is the point of it all? To mature you
 - He then refers to us as children
 - *Hebrews 5:12 "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature..."*
 - Families are designed to take babies and turn them into responsible adults who create babies, who help them grow to be adults, these adults go on to have babies.
 - Families reproduce and challenge, provoke, push towards maturity and responsibility.
- Business is not designed to develop you
 - When you go to the restaurant, you're not going there to have the chef make you the greatest chef possible. When you go to the mechanic, he's not taking you in the back, saying I'm going to make you the best mechanic ever.
 - When you come to this family, better believe that we are praying, working so that you'll be the best Dad you can be, the

best mom you can be, the best Christian you can be. We are committed to that purpose because we're family.

- Developing you is a family trait. Family always develops, but with that comes an expectation and a challenge. That's the opposite of what a lot of us are looking for when we come to church. We come looking for convenience
- In a family we expect growth and maturity.
 - If my child stays the same size and is 18 years old but still the same size they were when they were 10 we have a problem.
 - We notice that, we take steps to figure out why they aren't growing.
 - You can tell that most people don't view the church as a family because they would be offended if someone asked them why they aren't growing
 - Many come to be served, come with a consumer mindset and they did not sign up for family.
- Families are designed to produce growth
- Growth is when someone takes responsibility
 - When your child is 8 they can't be expected to be responsible for big things. But as they mature you are trying to prepare them and challenge them so that they can be responsible when they're 18.
 - Maturity is revealed by their ability to be responsible.
 - How do we know a child is maturing? When they can be responsible.
 - When a child is young they think it's the parent's job to clean their room, as they get older, the family should challenge them and seek to mature them. Show them how to be responsible for their own room.
- Christian maturity works the same way.
 - Are you responsible to anyone for anything that has to do with your faith? Are you responsible to serve, give, lead, read, pray?
 - If you aren't responsible to anyone or to God for anything concerning your faith, is it possible you're not developing?
- Are you involved in the relationships of God's family or are you observing monuments? Are you maturing, being responsible for your faith? Are you expecting someone else to do your Christianity for you?