



Family Matters: Give the Gift of... Synergy
"I want to and will work with you to fix this issue"

Daily Devotional Guide: Dec 8-14, 2024

Family Matters -

1. Begin with the End in Mind - (theology on Heaven/family)
2. Be Proactive - Mt 7:7, "Ask, Seek, Knock..."
3. Put First Things First - Mt 6:33, "Seek 1st the Kingdom of God"
4. Seek the Win-Win - Mt 7:12, "Do Unto others"
5. Seek 1st to understand, then to be Understood - James 1:19, "Be Quick to Listen. Slow to Speak. Slow to Anger"
6. Synergize - for today
7. Sharpen the Saw - Create Margin (and Jesus went away to pray; Keep the Sabbath holy; when margin between stimulus and response = proactive/not reactionary)

For Today: "Synergize"

Synergy = "the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects"

Synthesis = "in writing, synthesis is the process of combining multiple sources, components and ideas to create new ones"

"In materials science and engineering, synthesis is the process of creating a new material by combining different elements or compounds"

"the combining of the constituent elements of separate material or abstract entities to create a new, unified entity"

The "End Goal" = Different "parts of the family" working together for a greater, stronger combined entity

Q: How does this happen is you never disagree?

A: Disagreement = 2 abstract entities/2 separate agents

Part of Christmas "story" = Remember that a diverse healthy family was always God's idea

*Family comes from God, not yourself/not your idea

Gen 1:27, "And God made them in His image...."

- our "family drive" is hardwired into our souls

AT THE HEART OF HUMAN SIGNIFICANCE?

God created family, when God created you

Why am I here? Because God wanted children/family

But also note: God didn't CLONE Adam!

... when God created you, you are intentionally unique

.. and by the way, so is the rest of your family

Primary Cause of our family/Relationship Problems?

a) everyone in the family isn't walking with Jesus

b) the family members to themselves think everyone else in the family should think, act, and feel like them

FOR today though: **Failing to Embrace/Respect Differences**

*Failing to embrace how the other person is different from me, and allow differences to divide rather than complete

a. Be honest? Are you *happy* they don't look at life like you? Are you *happy* they have different values, goals, timelines, perspectives than you?

Why didn't God just clone Adam?

Why didn't God just clone Eve?

Men are from Mars, Women are From Venus: aren't we glad?

1 Cor 19-, "19 **If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body?** 20 But as it is, there are many parts but one body. 21 So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." 22 Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary... 24 The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor 25 **so that there won't be division in the body** and **so the parts might have mutual concern for each other.** 26 **If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it.** 27 You are the body of Christ and parts of each other."

Body of Christ - yes the church, but ALL Christians who claim communion with one another; and make absolutely no mistake, this includes your family at home!

The Big Idea: Through differences, we find completion; not when they become a clone of you

1. Healthy relationships will only occur when you learn not only to appreciate your differences (rather than letting them get on your nerves and drive

you apart), *but then also ENGAGING your differences to address issues/problems*

Irony: Families face problems, then get frustrated because spouses are taking different approaches to solutions, with the default being, "they are wrong."

*What if it's possible you BOTH are right (and somewhat wrong), and you BOTH need to work together to truly fix the problem?

- raising kids: parents often argue about the "correct" way to raise kids, with one parent being more gracious/forgiving and the other being "different" (stern or passive/hands off)

*What if kids need ALL grace, discipline and at times, passive?

- family issues (like money) - tend to have 1 spouse who spends too much and one who won't spend anything. What if you need both the ability to "not spend" but also to "enjoy what you have"?

- the church - invariably challenges arise because of 800 different opinions regarding a dozen different issues. What if EVERYONE has something important to add, even with all the opinions?

To some scripture: What if "2 opinions are better than 1"?

Ecc 4:9-12, 2 people can help each other when they fall down, a 2-ply cord stronger is than 1

*ROPE - "A rope is strong because it is made by twisting or braiding together multiple strands of fibers, which allows the tension to be distributed evenly across all the strands, creating a much stronger structure than a single fiber alone;"

Mt 18:19-20, " ¹⁹ Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

*enormous power in Christ when believers agree/work together;

Natural/Human Tendency = Work together when we agree; NOT work together when we don't

We appreciate similarities; we polarize and vilify differences

Cultural Norm - we TRASH anyone who disagrees with us

*in politics, education, and especially religion....

*also in marriage: our spouse's opinions are trash when they are not the same as your own

- of course, "Opposites Attract" *before marriage!* however AFTER marriage, not so much. Why?

Pre-Marriage: we LOVE opposites, as we are easily bored

After Marriage, we HATE opposites, because they lead to disagreement and conflict (get on our nerves)

So opposites attract, but THEN they get on your nerves?

And not just opposites, ANYONE who disagrees and is different than you will eventually get on your nerves and lead to Conflict = Differences of

Perspective, Opinions, Values, Priorities, Interests, etc

1. How will ANYONE get along, if they disagree?

A: it's a choice, it is NOT a feeling

To a Solution: CHOOSE to be Grateful + "Dig In" to Appreciate Differences, Rather Than Allow Them to Annoy/Divide You

Why God made men and women "opposites"?

- Nature of God = Creative, Full, Complete, About Filling Deficiencies, etc

- Nature of Humanity = We are "by nature" Incomplete Beings (holes in our hearts)

PEACE (shalom) MEANS = to be whole and complete/no cracks

Fascinating: On your own, you CANNOT be whole/complete

1. Why God is VINE and we are branches

*we need God to be whole/complete, thus experience peace

2. Why we NEED family, friends, and Christian communion

a) God's Gift of Peace/Shalom ("to be complete") occurs via Other + others

b) Great Commandment - we need Christ (Phil 4:12)

c) AND Love other people... starting w/family

... especially when you disagree

..... appreciate how they fill your "holes"

But: There is NO COMMUNION, unless you come to appreciate that other people who think, believe, behave and have different opinions than you are actually bringing something to the "communion table" you actually are missing within yourself!

a. we are not talking about toxic people

b. we are not talking about abuse or need for healthy boundaries

c. we ARE talking about issues that should divide, rather issues that should cause us to come together, to WORK together and love one another to work in Christ towards solutions given our difference perspectives

*2 cords are stronger than 1

*where 2 or more are gathered in my name, there I AM

Which is the point of SYNERGIZE:

Synergize - Choose thankfulness (1 Thess 5:18) for "differences" in your family

- Chances are, you are weak/deficient, where they are strong (opposites attract)

a. Family Challenge = appreciate your differences; don't view as trash

b. Remember: The more "complete" you are, the more peace you'll have

*this applies with family, friends, church... all relationships

Questions about the Bible, your walk with Christ, discipleship? Schedule

"coffee with a pastor": Thomas@LifePointFellowship.com;

Or, email Cam@LifePointFellowship.com

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

3 Steps: Work through the 5 Prayer Forms

1 - Begin w/Centering Prayer

- Mt 11:28-30, Name and Release your burdens/distractions to Christ

- Psalm 46:10, Consciously seek to clear your mind and "Be Still"

2 - Intentionally Glorify (worship) the Lord

- Name the "Good" within and around you + lift it up to God

3 - Confess Your Sins

a. What have you done that is wrong? (works to 7 Deadly sins)

b. What have you left undone that would have been right?

4 - Give Thanks to God for your Blessings (name them)

a. for other people who are on your heart

b. Make requests to God for yourself

2. Time of Listening to God through His Words

Read through the daily scripture passages, with goal to "hear from God" on any point you feel relates to you. Stop and reflect on those truths.

Dec 9 Mon - Ecc 4 **Dec 10 Tues** - Mt 18 **Dec 11 Wed** - 1 Cor 12

Dec 12 Thur - Eph 4 **Dec 13 Fri** - Mt 6 **Dec 14 Sat** - James 1

3. Closing Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

Items of Note:

Questions about events, registrations, missions, etc? Email

Info@LifePointFellowship.com or call (817) 855-9802

Dec 15 - Consecration Sunday

Dec 22 - Flannel Sunday

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services (3:30 and 5 pm)

Wed Night Bible study (off now) will resume after New Years

Let us Pray for you! Leave Prayer requests in offering box for us

Would you like Christian Counseling? LP will scholarship you to the Hope and Growth Center. Email Pastor@LifePointFellowship.com