Family Fractures Emerge

Modern Families
- Broken, Dysfunctional, Difficult
- Desirable, Important, Life-affirming

By the Numbers
- 2016 Census
  - 125.82 million households
  - 2.6 people per household
  - 2.4 children in family
- 73.7 million children
  - 69% live with a 2 parent family
  - 23% live with a single mother
- 33.3% of all adults have never married
- Divorce: 40%
- Spousal abuse: 1 in 4 women
- Child abuse: 4 children die each day in the US due to child abuse

Families Have Been Fractured Since the Beginning
- First couple
- First Family

Family Fracture
- Cain and Abel
- First murder

Problem
The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.
Genesis 6:5 (NLT)

New Beginning with a New Family
This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.
Genesis 6:9 (NLT)
Time to Begin

Then God said to Noah, “Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth.” Genesis 8:15-17 (NLT)

Noah Sacrificed to the Lord

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose. And the LORD was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice. Genesis 8:20-21 (NLT)

Family Fractures

After the flood, Noah began to cultivate the ground, and he planted a vineyard. One day he drank some wine he had made, and he became drunk and lay naked inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and went outside and told his brothers. Then Shem and Japheth took a robe, held it over their shoulders, and backed into the tent to cover their father. As they did this, they looked the other way so they would not see him naked. When Noah woke up from his stupor, he learned what Ham, his youngest son, had done. Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham: “May Canaan be cursed! May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives.” Genesis 9:20-25 (NLT)

What Happened?

- Anachronistic fallacy—Applying later rules to earlier times doesn’t help to understand what happened
- Imposing homosexual acts doesn’t explain what happened
- Noah was the only righteous man and he walked closely with God
- Noah was the senior living man and God’s chosen one to begin the new world
- Noah was to be respected and honored
- Noah’s youngest son disrespected and dishonored his father

Noah’s curse on Ham

- Had to do with being in a position of little respect
- Fell on Ham’s youngest son, Canaan

“May Canaan be cursed! May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives.” Genesis 9:25
The descendants of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. Genesis 10:6 (NLT)

Restoring the Family is God’s Plan

His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse. Malachi 4:6 (NLT)
Family Problems are Real (Video-Cheetos)

God’s Design for the Family
- Right relationship with God
- Right relationship with family

Right Relationship with God
- And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. John 17:3 (NLT)
- Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

Right Relationship with Family
For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all. Ephesians 4:4-6 (NLT)

Actions for Right Relationship with
- Let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.
- Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.
- Stop telling lies. Let us tell our family the truth, for we are all parts of the same family.
- “Don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.
- If you are a being a bum and ripping others off, quit. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously.
- Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to your family who hear them.
- Do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own,
- Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.
- Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.
Adapted from Ephesians 4:23-32 (NLT)

There is a Future for Your Family

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a mighty shout, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. They sang, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Revelation 7:9-12 (NLT)

Response

• What has the Spirit of God prompted in your heart today?
• What do you need to change?
• What do you need to rethink?
• What do you need to do?