

Family

We all have struggling families, we have stressed families and we have good families working to be better families - but we don't have any perfect families. Neither does any other church. Perfect families, like perfect people, don't exist. I don't say that to motivate you to go out and be satisfied with a crummy family life, but to give you hope.

One of the reasons a lot of people give up on improving their family life is that they lose hope. They throw up their hands and say, "What's the use? There's nothing I can do to make things better." That's a satanic lie. People end up going around in self-destructive circles because they believe the devil's lie that you can't change.

You can improve your family even if you're single - because with God's help - you can improve you! If you're married you can improve your marriage. If you're a parent or a grandparent or you have problems with your siblings or your in-laws - whatever - all of these relationships can be improved with God's help.

With God there is always hope!

So we're going to close out this current series on "No Perfect Families Allowed," by talking about someone in the Bible that you probably never dreamed we would talk about in this series - a single man.

Family Time

In recent years there seem to have been a breakdown in families families sitting down to dinner, praying, sharing meals and conversation...and spending quality time together. In my home, for example, due to different work schedules and other activities, we seldom share a meal together. We are busy working, and buying more things.

I long for the 'good ole days' when families had time for each other, played checkers, shared jokes, watched television together or simply sat. Sure, we have more materialistically, yet aren't we neglecting the most important things? Aren't we neglecting the things that really matter; our family?

If we go back to Genesis, we see that the oldest of social institutions was the family. Genesis 2:24: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Psalms 133:1: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Joshua 24:15: "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Our Responsibility

Parents, the Lord holds us responsible for the environment that we create for our children. We are responsible for their upbringing. It is important that we spend quality time with our children, and listen to what they have to say. Our children are precious, they are a gift from God.

The Bible says: "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate" Psalm 127: 3-5.

Proverbs 17:6: "Children's children are the crown of old men: and the glory of children are their fathers."

Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Children grow up so fast.... If we neglect to unite together as a family, we will miss so much; the laughter, the joy of playing, quiet moments of going to the library, Scripture reading, or a whispered prayer. Praying together as a family is very important.

Let us proclaim as Joshua did, "...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

[John 13:34](#) ESV / 555 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

[1 John 4:20](#) ESV / 315 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

[1 Peter 4:8](#) ESV / 295 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

[John 13:34-35](#) ESV / 274 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

[Romans 12:10](#) ESV / 231 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

[1 John 4:7-10](#) ESV / 176 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of

God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

[1 John 4:11](#) ESV / 174 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

[Romans 13:8](#) ESV / 171 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

[1 John 3:18](#) ESV / 145 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

[Galatians 5:13](#) ESV / 121 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

[1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#) ESV / 109 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ...

[Luke 6:31](#) ESV / 106 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

[John 15:12](#) ESV / 103 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

[Luke 6:35](#) ESV / 102 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

[John 13:35](#) ESV / 99 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

[John 3:16](#) ESV / 99 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

[1 John 4:7](#) ESV / 98 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

[1 John 3:11](#) ESV / 98 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

[1 John 3:16](#) ESV / 97 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

[Leviticus 19:18](#) ESV / 96 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

[Ephesians 4:2](#) ESV / 95 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

[1 John 3:17](#) ESV / 94 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

[1 Peter 1:22](#) ESV / 90 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

[John 15:13](#) ESV / 90 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

[Deuteronomy 6:5](#) ESV / 80 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

[Ephesians 4:32](#) ESV / 78 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

[1 Thessalonians 4:9](#) ESV / 77 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,

[1 Thessalonians 3:12](#) ESV / 75 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

[1 Corinthians 13:13](#) ESV / 72 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

[1 John 4:12](#) ESV / 68 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

[1 Corinthians 16:14](#) ESV / 68 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Let all that you do be done in love.

[John 15:17](#) ESV / 65 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

[Hebrews 10:24](#) ESV / 62 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

[1 Thessalonians 5:11](#) ESV / 62 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

[Romans 13:10](#) ESV / 58 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

[1 Peter 3:8](#) ESV / 57 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

[John 14:15](#) ESV / 57 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

[1 John 3:23](#) ESV / 56 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

[1 John 4:1-21](#) ESV / 55 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is

greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ...

[Mark 12:31](#) ESV / 55 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

[Ephesians 5:21](#) ESV / 54 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

[Ephesians 4:1-32](#) ESV / 53 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ...

[Romans 5:8](#) ESV / 52 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

[Romans 16:16](#) ESV / 48 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

[2 John 1:5](#) ESV / 47 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.

[1 John 4:19](#) ESV / 47 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

We love because he first loved us.

[Galatians 5:26](#) ESV / 47 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

[1 John 5:3](#) ESV / 45 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

[James 4:11](#) ESV / 44 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

[Colossians 3:16](#) ESV / 44 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

[Colossians 3:14](#) ESV / 44 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

[Romans 14:13](#) ESV / 44 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

[Romans 12:16](#) ESV / 44 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

[Matthew 6:24](#) ESV / 44 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

[Romans 15:7](#) ESV / 43 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

[1 John 3:14](#) ESV / 42 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

[Colossians 3:13](#) ESV / 42 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

[1 John 4:21](#) ESV / 41 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

[Galatians 5:22-23](#) ESV / 41 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

[John 13:14](#) ESV / 41 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

[1 John 4:16](#) ESV / 39 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

[James 5:9](#) ESV / 39 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

[Hebrews 3:13](#) ESV / 39 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

[1 Thessalonians 4:18](#) ESV / 39 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

[Ephesians 5:25](#) ESV / 39 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

[Ephesians 4:2-3](#) ESV / 39 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

[Galatians 5:15](#) ESV / 39 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

[1 Peter 5:14](#) ESV / 38 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

[Philippians 2:3](#) ESV / 38 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

[1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#) ESV / 38 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

[Romans 15:14](#) ESV / 38 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

[Matthew 7:12](#) ESV / 38 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

[1 Peter 5:5](#) ESV / 37 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

[James 5:16](#) ESV / 37 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

[Colossians 3:9](#) ESV / 37 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

[Luke 3:11](#) ESV / 36 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

[Proverbs 10:12](#) ESV / 36 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

[Hebrews 10:25](#) ESV / 34 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

[1 Corinthians 11:33](#) ESV / 34 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another—

[Matthew 5:41](#) ESV / 34 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

[1 John 3:1](#) ESV / 33 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

[1 Thessalonians 5:15](#) ESV / 33 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

[1 Peter 4:9](#) ESV / 32 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

[1 Thessalonians 1:3](#) ESV / 32 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

[Galatians 6:2](#) ESV / 32 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

[John 14:1-31](#) ESV / 31 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ...

[Deuteronomy 7:9](#) ESV / 31 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

[Ephesians 5:19](#) ESV / 29 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

[1 Corinthians 16:20](#) ESV / 29 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

[John 15:12-13](#) ESV / 29 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

[Isaiah 43:4-28](#) ESV / 29 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Bring out the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! ...

[Proverbs 17:17](#) ESV / 29 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

[2 Thessalonians 1:3](#) ESV / 28 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

[2 Corinthians 13:12](#) ESV / 28 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

[1 Timothy 1:5](#) ESV / 27 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

[Ephesians 5:33](#) ESV / 27 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

[John 15:9](#) ESV / 27 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

[1 John 5:1](#) ESV / 25 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

[Philippians 2:2](#) ESV / 25 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

[1 Corinthians 12:25](#) ESV / 25 helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful

That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.