

Experiencing the NEW NORMAL in Family Relationships

Ephesians 6:1-4

What insights, breakthroughs, and lessons have you have learned from the book of Ephesians?

Jesus is rewriting the relational script in three areas (MFS): marriage (5:21-33), family (6:1-4), and society (6:5-9).

BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND:

- **What are the characteristics of the kind of children we want to have when they leave our home?**
- **What kind of homes produce these kind of characteristics?**
- **What kind of training, resources and help do I need to become a parent that adds value to my children?**

Three DISTINCTIVES of New Normal Families:

#1 – CHILDREN: Enthusiastically **OBEY** your parents and enjoy the **BENEFIT!** (vv.1-3)

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother – which is the first commandment with a promise – that it might go well with you and that you might enjoy long life on the earth.”

- **What are the benefits of obedience?**

Benefits come in two varieties:

Qualitative Benefit – “that it might go well with you”

Quantitative Benefit – “that you may enjoy long life on the earth”

#2 – PARENTS: Intentionally **BUILD UP** your Children in the Lord and Don't Bring them **DOWN!** (v. 4)

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

- **FAMILY INVENTORY:** What is our pattern and how can I change?

Five Ways to EXASPERATE and Bring Down	Five Ways to EDUCATE/ MOTIVATE and Build Up
1. Critique/Complain "What do I need to STOP doing?"	1. Complement/Complete "What do I need to START doing?"
2. Comparing/Favoritism What do I need to STOP doing?	2. Celebrate Uniqueness "What do I need to START doing?"
3. Neglect/Distracted "What do I need to STOP doing?"	3. Intentional Nurturing "What do I need to START doing?"
4. Anger "What do I need to STOP doing?"	4. Compassion, Gentleness, and Kindness "What do I need to START doing?"
5. Excessive Exhortation – "Always Teaching" "What do I need to STOP doing?"	5. Gracious Guide/ Fellow Traveler "What do I need to START doing?"

#3 – EVERYONE: Regularly **ACCESS** and **DEPEND** upon Jesus and his gracious **RESOURCES!** (v. 1, 4) "in the Lord"

How can **RESTORATION CHURCH** help in the process?

- o **Prioritize Family Ministry** as one of the most important ministries in the life of the church
- o **Provide training and instruction** for marriages and family.
- o **Partner families** with mentor couples/families.
- o **Promote interconnected families** in the church that take ownership of one another's marriages/families.

Action Steps:

- o **What is one specific area truth from today that I will apply in my life immediately?**
- o **Who is keeping me accountable to make this happen?**