

“A More Excellent Way”

Lesson 3: Love Depleting Challenges To Families “Jealousy and Pride” (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Intro:

1. Families must be careful to avoid things that rob them of joy and happiness.
2. Our text warns us that proper love does not allow for jealousy and pride. (Proverb 27:4)
3. Jealousy left unchecked can escalate into greater challenges.

I. The destruction jealousy and pride have caused to families.

1. In the life of Joseph (Genesis 37:4-11)

- a. Parental favorites may be more subtle than a coat of many colors but can be just as harmful.
- b. We must be cautious to not negatively react to real or perceived favoritism. (Ephesians 4:26-27)

2. Jealousy was part of one of the first family disputes and eventually ended in tragedy. (Genesis 4:5-8)

- a. We must be careful not to let personal disappointment present itself in jealousies towards others. Who was Cain really angry with???
- b. Personal failures should lead us to repentance not jealousy. (Luke 22:32)

3. Jealousy in unusual circumstances. (Genesis 16:1-5)

- a. Not every family environment is ideal.
- b. We must avoid letting those frustrations lead to further problems.

II. Pride hinders one of the greatest healing agents within families. “Asking for forgiveness.”

1. My personal obligation. (Matthew 5:23-24)

- a. Pride has kept many families from the love that God would want them to have.
- b. Jesus said, “blessed are the peacemakers.” (Matthew 5:9)
- c. Saying you’re sorry and asking for forgiveness can restore love to a home.

2. Love encourages us to confess our faults. (James 5:16)

III. Members of the Lord's church must also be careful concerning pride and arrogance.

1. We will all find ourselves at various levels of knowledge.

2. My "superior" knowledge whether true or perceived does not give me the right to act arrogantly toward my brother in Christ. (1 Corinthians 8:7-13)

3. My love for my brethren will encourage me to edify rather than destroy. (Romans 15:1-3)

4. Love encourages me to give preference to my brother. (Romans 12:10)

Conclusion:

1. Jealousy and pride are destructive forces.

2. Love helps us overcome the temptation of these challenges.

3. Expressions of love should be used to diffuse those who express jealousy toward us. (Matthew 5:44)