

HEALTHY CHURCH -- FIGHTING FAMILIES

Sunday, June 5, 2022 -- HEALTHY CHURCH series -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

SELECT PASSAGES

English Standard Version (ESV)

NEHEMIAH 4:14

*And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and **fight** for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."*

2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

***I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.*

EPHESIANS 6:10-20 -- Spiritual Warfare and the Armor of God

Notice the context of this passage on spiritual warfare

Ephesians 5:22-33 Instructions regarding wives and husbands (family!)

Ephesians 6:1-4 Children and fathers (family!)

Ephesians 6:5-9 Workers and Masters

Ephesians 6:10-20 Spiritual WAR and Armor of God at conclusion of book

What this message title DOESN'T mean –

That Christian families fight against one another.

That Christian families fight a culture war.

What this message title DOES mean –

That true Christian families fight for faithfulness to God.

That true Christian families fight against the schemes of Satan.

Many who call themselves Christians don't even realize that they are in a war.

1) Many are not really Christians. James 4:4

2) Some are foolishly living in defeat.

Christian families need to realize that they are in a war and it is not with each other!

They are not to fight AGAINST one another but FOR one another.

Christian families need to realize who the real enemy is...

Not your family, not lost people but Satan, 'the world' and the flesh.

If Christians would stop viewing their **family members** as the opposition and start viewing **Satan** as the common enemy, then they would speed ahead in maturity and health.

When Christian families realize they have a **common enemy in Satan** they are far more likely to stop fighting one another and start making **REAL progress** in what really matters.

Just remember, every time you fight with a family member you are doing two things:

- You are naïvely playing into **Satan's deception and destruction**
- You are foolishly robbing yourself of **God's blessings and spiritual victory.**

Christians often fight the **wrong battles** and the **wrong enemies.**

- **Families must be wise in the ways of God.**

Psalm 119:105 *Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*

Psalm 16:11 *You will make known to me the path of life;*

In Your presence is fullness of joy;

In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 25:8 *Good and upright is the Lord;*

Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

- **Families must be wise to the ways of Satan.** (Look for the lie.)
- **Families must be wise to the ways of the World.** (Take the narrow way.)

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Christians need to **work smarter** in their sanctification process.

- **Cutting worldliness out of your life is important.**

-- your entertainment (videos, films, shows, series, music)

-- your time usage

-- your morality

- **Developing spiritual habits into your life is MORE important.**

-- scripture reading/discussion as a family

-- prayer as a family

-- outreach as a family

-- serving others as a family

-- hospitality as a family

**** Sins of OMISSION lead to sins of COMMISSION. ****

*"When you fail to do what you **SHOULD** do,
you usually will not fail to do what you **SHOULDN'T** do."*

This is true for **the individual** and **the family.**

SO HOW DOES MY FAMILY FIGHT?

Fight for Truth.

2 Corinthians 10:5

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Fight for Tenderness.

Ephesians 4:32

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Fight for Grace.

2 Timothy 2:1

You therefore my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Fight for Peace.

Hebrews 12:14

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Fight for Holiness.

Hebrews 12:14

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Fight for JOY.

Ecclesiastes 8:15;

And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 9:9

Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM 1st CORINTHIANS:

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.