

Introduction:**• God's design for family:**

- One mom, one dad, lots of kids happily ever after. vs. Marred family filled with grace.
- (7 elements of design) God is at the center of all they do/ Love abounds - unconditional,/ Learning - learning never stops,/ Loyalty - devoted attachment,/ Leadership - Every family has to have a leader,/ Laughter./ Forgiveness - we do not hold/ keep offense.
- *"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"* (Psalm 139:23-24, ESV)
- My goal this morning is to release healing into our homes, marriages, family relationships.

I. God's Design Is Family

- A. This was the plan in the beginning. Family was His design.
 1. One man, the husband. One woman the wife.
 2. Their future design was to be parents of awesome children. Ie. Like olive shoot around the olive tree.
 3. To fill the earth and take dominion.
- B. The design was marred by disobedience. I am intentionally ignoring the word 'sin' in order that we focus on a greater more important aspect, 'love.'
 1. The Garden of Eden is the foundation, starting point, for everything God initiated for man.
 2. Adam and Eve were created perfectly and they were perfectly accepted by God and perfectly loved by God. "When Adam and Eve were tempted they were not tempted out of a place of brokenness or being flawed. They were tempted out of a place of love." John Ashe Journey Community Church. What do you mean?
 3. The only thing that Adam and Eve had to give back to God was themselves in obedience. That was the cycle of love. God loved them and he gave them life, he gave them this amazing world, called Eden, to live in. It was all for them! The only thing they possessed that they could possibly give back was 'obedience' out of love for God.
 4. When they disobeyed, love broke and a massive hole entered into the heart of humanity and a massive chasm was created between God and man.
 - a) This broken love unleashed a sea of emotions including guilt, rejection, anger, blame and the list goes on and on.
 - b) And these things get passed on through us as parents to our children. So if I have this hole/ void of love guess what my children will most likely have.
 - c) While we were created for family, yet when love broke—family also broke. IE Cain killed Abel. But before he did God told him, sin is crouching at your door.

KEY: The very relationships we were created for, with God, with each other and ourselves also broke.

- C. Home is where I belong. It is God's design!
1. Let me ask a question: When you think about your childhood home, what is the first thing you think of when you hear the word home?
 - a) We all have a concept of home but not everyone is aware of it.
 - b) Home is where the heart is. Where is your heart located in that home? Ie. Circle with dot.
 - c) What holds us together at home? The Bond? Love!
 - (1) Ie. Mother and baby - bond. Anya got to do that with Carissa a month ago.
 - (2) The Captain and Tennille sang about it, "Love, love will keep us together, think of me babe whenever..."
 2. Every child needs three things in order to thrive at home: John Ashe Journey Community Church.
 - a) Agape love - both given and received.
 - b) Security - a roof, food, protection
 - c) Affection - feel loved, and our emotions handled well.
 3. What happens when there is no 'glue' at home? or it is very weak? Rejection sets in.

II. Looking Into The Void

- A. The church does a fairly good job dealing with the sin issue. Closing the gap between us and God through Jesus Christ. But we do not do a very good at closing the void in our homes.
- B. When we have a break in relationships, it creates a love void/chasm in our lives. This chasm holds a flood of negative emotions, that can grown and become even greater and eventually spill out of us.
1. When love breaks, a void is created in our lives and rejection gets rooted.
 2. Out of rejection comes frustration, **anger, isolation**, which produces **anxiety** (fear, doubt, worry, insecurity) [the exact opposite of what home should supply], **hopelessness** - (lack of love, guilt and shame) which cause depression.
 3. Now the rejected becomes the rejector, and the cycle continues.
 - a) "99% of addictions are father related." John Ashe Journey Community Church.
 - b) When you stop feeling love a deep disconnect occurs.
 - c) If you have a rebellious child it isn't the child's fault, it's the parents.
- C. "Every negative emotion roots in rejection." John Ashe Journey Community Church.
1. Rejection is a shared human experience.
 2. "Rejection is the essence of all sin." *ibid.* It takes place when love breaks. With God, others, and self. Self rejection is the worse because we don't like ourselves. (I must be rejectable.)

- a) In all my years of pastoring one common thing I have heard among men: "I don't want to be like my dad." Why are you here? "Because I am just like my dad." If we do not like something about our dad and we become like him. Who do we reject? Ourselves.
- b) Who has rejected you the most?

III. Dealing With The Void

- A. The only person who can fill the void of a father or mother is your actual father or mother. We have to accept them as our parents, no matter what they did and who they were.
 1. One definition of rejection is this: "knowingly or unknowingly withholding love from another person." *Victorious Christian Living.*
 2. Bring it into the open in your life.
- B. Confess - tell the person how you feel. (Do not do this to their face.) Close your eyes get a picture of the person and tell them how you feel. A great way to do this is to write a letter to them. (Do not give the letter to anyone.) You have to express how you feel. Make four lists.
 1. List what this person did or did not do that affected you.
 2. List all the hurt from this offense
 3. List all the ramifications of the offense(s)
 4. List your own sinful reactions to them.
- C. Forgive them - forgive them. Cancel the 'debt' they owe you.
 1. *"Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."* (Romans 13:8, ESV)
- D. Acceptance - accept them the way they are. Accept the dad you have, not the one you wish for.
- E. Surrender - surrender; stop wishing for your dad; stop fighting with your dad.
- F. 'So What' - Now you let go. You choose to love whether you get love back or not.
 1. *"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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."* (1 John 4:7-11, ESV)
 2. *"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony"* (Colossians 3:14, ESV)

Conclusion:

- Home is worth fighting for!
- *"So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows."* (Nehemiah 4:13, ESV)