



### Outer Growth - Family 3

**But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel**

*1 Timothy 5:8*

**Forgiveness** - Psalms 130:4

**Acknowledge** - Psalms 51:3

**Make peace** - James 3:18, Psalms 34:14

**Intercession** - 1 Timothy 2:1

**Learn** - Deuteronomy 17:19

**Yield** - Psalms 85:12

Everyone in a family will, at times, encounter unfamiliar situations that they would never expect to happen among relatives. However, it does happen. What to do about it? There are only two possibilities: to help provide a solution or to leave it and continue to watch and see what happens.

Today, many individuals in families take the easy way, which is **to leave it and continue to watch and see what happens**. However, the godly ones and those who claim to love their family **will help provide a solution**. The theme verse, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel," from First Timothy five, verse eight. Family Part One is about being in it; Part Two is Family Crisis, and Part Three is about Family Christ, because He is the Holy One who can provide the best solution to whatever the circumstance may be at the moment.

Those in the family may experience problems that affect the household. To begin the repair, the family starts with forgiveness. To pardon

and end the blame that has caused conflict among the members involved. This first step is not as easy as it sounds because it will reopen what caused the problem in the first place. However, this stage may not be instant but a gradual healing process over time.

"But *there is* forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared." Not that the public or whoever will be afraid of the person who forgives, but the spirit currently within them that opposes love, compassion, and caring. Forgiveness is a part of the group of words mentioned above, which are godly qualities that the enemy hates. The devil cannot work with an individual who incorporates them. Not able to work through them, plan through them, tempt them, can't do it. Forgiveness is against the nature of Satan.

The members of a family must be able to acknowledge their faults in a bad situation that may have caused such turmoil and pain. "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." To admit their wrongdoing and the negative role they play in a conflict is vital to restoring good ground in a relationship. It is so easy to replay a bad situation, such as an intense argument, harsh words received during the verbal fight, inappropriate actions, or demonstration during the altercation. However, it is easy to overlook our role in it and focus on what was done against us because we cannot see it if we only had a mirror in front of us; the situation may have been different.

To end a family problem is when one or both involved take the step forward to make peace. "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." Is it coincidental that the word "**good**" has **God** within it, and the word "**evil**" with the letter "d" added produces devil? We can see the importance of making peace and what it takes to achieve it. "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

In some family situations, intercessory prayer may be necessary to resolve matters, especially those of a severe nature. Paul in First Timothy two, verse one, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men." For believers, or even unbelievers, when some family situation hurts

on the inside, the words "God help me" will come to mind, or in the form of a whisper, or even in a loud shout. For believers, the compassionate, "God help them!" Remember what Jesus said when he was about to be crucified on the cross in Luke twenty-three, verse thirty-four, "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots." The Son of God faced a situation as severe as it gets, and look how He responds: He prays for them, asking the Father for forgiveness. A family will learn from their mistakes, or will they? Unfortunately, some people do, and others do not. That is why the term "repeat offender" refers to a person who has previously **committed an offense** against the law, often someone who may be **deemed incorrigible**, the most common description here. However, in family matters, some experience situations that they did not learn from and reflect on. However, for believers, it should be different.

In family matters, in bad situations, a believer should rely on God and His Word. "For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again," at the start of Proverbs twenty-four, verse sixteen. Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness, as in Isaiah forty-one, verse ten. God desires to resolve family matters the right way, which is His way, and not what we think along the way.

In a family, as believers, we must surrender and allow God to work on our behalf. "Yea, the LORD shall give *that which is* good; and our land shall yield her increase." To overcome a bad situation begins with yielding by giving up our thoughts to Him and asking the Lord to enlighten us. Letting go of what we think of it. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he," as in the beginning of Proverbs twenty-three, verse seven.

Yield to God and what He says in His Word, and be a doer. "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as in the first part of Romans six, verse thirteen.

Family situations are resolvable. However, how we handle them and go about it is the

challenge. Still, God's way will always be the best solution for the family.