

NO FAMILY IS IMMUNE FROM DYSFUNCTION OR EXCLUDED FROM THE HEALING THAT COMES FROM JESUS.

Definition: *Dysfunctionality*

1: impaired or abnormal functioning.

2: abnormal or unhealthy interpersonal behavior or interaction within a group family *dysfunction*.¹

Dysfunctional families in the Bible...

- Saul & Jonathan – Saul was unstable, insecure, and verbally abusive.
- David & Absalom – David was a professional success but abdicated his responsibility at home.
- Herod the “Great” – “Better to be his *hous* than his *huios*,” Better to be his pig than his son.
- Joseph & his brothers – Joseph was favored by his father and hated by his brothers (Genesis 50:20).

Truths...

1) Source of dysfunction: Sinful desire comes from within – James 1:13-15
Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ **But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.** ¹⁵ Then **desire** when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Colossians 3:5-11

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ *On account of these the wrath of God is coming.* ⁷ *In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.* ⁸ *But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.* ⁹ *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices* ¹⁰ *and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.* ¹¹ *Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.*

The Gospel and dysfunction

- **Throw** out what pulls you **away** from Jesus – 3:5 *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...*

Q: What does it mean to “put to death?”

A: Throw these things out of your life by following Jesus.

- a. *sexual immorality,*
- b. *impurity,*
- c. *passion,*

- d. *evil desire,*
- e. *and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

- Why put these things to death? Because they bring wrath of God – 3:6 *On account of these the wrath of God is coming.*

Q: What is “the wrath of God?”

A: Initially, it’s turning us over to our own self-destructive desires. Ultimately, this leads to eternal separation from God in a place called Hell. Romans 1:24a *Therefore God gave them up in the **lusts** (desires) of their hearts...*

How to live differently in a dysfunctional family

- Walk away from the **past** – 3:7-8 *In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away:*
 - a. *anger,*
 - b. *wrath,*
 - c. *malice,*
 - d. *slander,*
 - e. *and obscene (abusive) talk from your mouth.*

How?

- **Leave** the lifestyle of lying in the past: **Reflect** your new Father – 3:9-10 *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

John 8:44 *You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.*

- No exemptions and no **exclusions**: No family is immune from dysfunction or excluded from the healing that comes from Jesus – 3:11 *Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, **Scythian**, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.*

Preparations for Next Steps

- 1) Can you identify your family’s area of dysfunction? Do you understand and believe that only God can change your family?
- 2) Can you identify your part in your family’s dysfunction? Am I willing to take responsibility for myself?
- 3) If you draw near to God, He can use you as an agent of change in your family.

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dysfunction>.