

CREATE A BIBLICAL-BASED

Family Unit



MAY 2019

Taffi and I pray that this letter finds you and your loved ones excelling in the goodness of God and experiencing the fullness of His blessing. May His blessing empower your family with everything necessary for you to enjoy days of heaven on earth like never before!

If you're a mother, we'd like to say, "Happy Mother's Day!" in advance. Mothers are special and deserve to be treated with respect and admiration. So, enjoy yourself!

This month, I would like to share with you the key principles for building a successful family. Now when I refer to the family, I want you to keep the word *relationship* at the forefront of your thinking. I say this because a family is comprised of more than just a husband and a wife. There's also the relationship between parents and children, siblings, in-laws, and so forth. Regardless of the interaction, the focus should be on governing our family relationships by the Word of God, our manual of instruction for life.

I believe God created a biblically-based family unit to carry out His will in the earth. With all that is happening in the world—increase of divorce, teen pregnancy, crime, lasciviousness, blatant immorality, rampant wickedness, and much more—it's critical that families stay strong.

Think about it, Adam and Eve were created to have dominion over the works of God's hands. God used Abraham's family to pave the way for Jesus to come on the scene and change the world. There are many more biblical examples of how the family unit is a powerful force.

The bottom line is that our society *needs* God and His plan for healthy, functional families to experience true change for the better.

Unfortunately, not everyone cares about changing society's view of the family to conform to God's view. Psalm 55:19 tells us people who fail to change, even after hearing God's truth, simply don't reverence or respect Him.

It's one thing for the world to casually ignore God but, as Christians, we cannot allow the world's way of thinking to invade our homes while we remain idle, hoping things get better. No, we have a *responsibility* to uphold the biblical standards of family relationships, no matter what.

I know it may get tough sometimes but, as believers, we have to be tougher than our problems.

Listen, Taffi and I have had our ups and downs in our relationships with each other, with our kids, and with other family members. At the end of the day, however, our commitment to God, first, then to each another, far outweighs the troubles we've experienced.

Something powerful happens when a family sticks together through good and bad times. It's easy to call it quits when things get rough, or to hold on to hurt, unforgiveness, and feelings of rejection. It's easy to stay mad at relatives for past offenses; but as my wife, Taffi, will tell you, it's better to release the pain of yesterday, and embrace the love

of God today, to experience a better tomorrow. God is a BIG God, and He's big enough to help you overcome whatever you're facing with your family. You simply have to submit to His plan for your life.

I have counseled married couples, parents, single people desiring marriage, divorcées, and many others who've had trouble in their relationships. The common denominator in most of their situations has been selfishness—the mindset that says, *I'm not the problem. If only the other person would change, things would get better. It's their fault we're in this mess.* Selfishness is an expression of self-preservation, which often results in casting blame, rather than taking responsibility for one's own actions.

If you're experiencing turmoil in your relationships, consider the role you may have played. Strife pulls people in different directions and will invite the enemy into your relationships, so avoid it at all costs. It's difficult to reach a destination of love and wholeness if two selfish people are always heading in the opposite direction. The Bible says, *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"* (Amos 3:3). I really like how this Scripture reads in The Message translation of the Bible: *"Do two people walk hand in hand if they aren't going to the same place?"*

Will there be disagreements in your relationships? Of course. However, it's important to agree to live by what the Word says. The Word must be the final authority in your relationships, otherwise you will always end up at the wrong destination. Taffi and I may have our disagreements, but what matters is our decision to govern our

marriage by God's Word. How will you govern your relationships?

It's true that the Word of God says there is safety in the multitude of counselors (Proverbs 11:14). I strongly believe in seeking advice from people whose counsel is tried and proven, and who are skilled in providing good, solid Christian perspectives on your situation. Avoid seeking advice from immature believers. Just because someone says they're a Christian doesn't qualify them to speak into your life. Use wisdom regarding personal issues.

A family that prays together, stays together. If you and your loved ones are not used to praying together, start today. Don't allow another day to go by without taking your concerns to the Father. There are answers awaiting you in His presence.

Don't give up on family members who are not born-again. Pray for them daily. Ask the Lord to send people to share the love of God with them.

I remember creating a salvation prayer list years ago for my entire family—my father, mother, sisters, aunts, cousins, and anyone else I could think of who didn't know Jesus. I diligently prayed for them to get born-again and, praise God, they all did over time.

Be willing to change. Govern your life and relationships by the Word of God, making it the final authority. Be mindful of the advice you follow. Walk in love, regardless of the situation, and diligently pray for your loved ones. Are you ready for a breakthrough in your family relationships? I'm in high expectation with you!

Be sure to send us your prayer requests and testimonies concerning your family when you write in this month to sow your precious love gift. We want to agree and rejoice with you as we expect complete wholeness and restoration in the lives of your family. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Remember that Jesus is Lord, and "...In all your getting, get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7, New King James Version).



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P.S. Be sure to take advantage of this month's teaching resource at:

<http://bit.ly/2GD8b1E>, which

I pray will be a great source of encouragement for you. God loves you!

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My family is restored and whole.

1 Peter 5:10, CEB; Philippians 4:7, MSG

My family is upheld by God's Word.

Isaiah 41:10

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My family is restored and whole.

1 Peter 5:10, CEB; Philippians 4:7, MSG

My family is upheld by God's Word.

Isaiah 41:10

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