

**Week 26 June 27 – July 3, 2021**  
**Family**

Lately I have been very involved in family issues. My mom lives with us, my sister-in-law lives with us, and recently my brother spent a bit over three weeks with us. When we view our media, it seems there is more about dysfunctional families than the family model I see in my own family.

So, I thought what does the Bible say about families? I had a hard time thinking of a family in the Bible that wasn't dysfunctional. From the beginning Adam and Eve have Cain and Abel, which doesn't work out to well for Abel due to Cain's jealousy. Abraham has to deal with Sarah and Hagar over their two sons' futures. Isaac and Rebekah have Jacob and Esau who have a tiff over birthrights. Jacob has twelve sons and stirs family resentment by making Joseph a favorite. It is good thing God is in control or the birthright from these families that we enjoy wouldn't exist, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are a couple of places in the Bible that family associations do flourish. One example is Naomi and Ruth. Ruth showed extraordinary fidelity to Naomi especially when you consider their culture. The other that comes to mind is Jesus' family. Joseph, who could have disowned Mary but didn't. Joseph and Mary worried about their son when he went missing on their trip to Jerusalem. I believe the fact that Jesus' brothers were involved in His ministry says something about how they were raised. In the end His mother was there at His crucifixion and tried to take care of Him afterwards.

What does this mean to me? I grieve for those who grew up and may now exist in a dysfunctional family. I applaud those who grew up in a dysfunctional family and yet take it upon themselves to break the cycle of dysfunction by deliberately committing themselves to ensure that doesn't happen in their family. I also thank the Lord that my parents provided a safe, nurturing family environment for my brother and me in which to grow up. In our gathering recently this reality has manifested itself in our daily conversations and with the help we give each other. Who has a brother who is willing to help re-plank the deck and call it fun as his vacation?

I am concerned that our culture is losing the sense of family that it has had in the past. We Christians need to work to help our neighbors understand what makes a family work so that we can end the cycle of dysfunctional families in our world.

Bob Pickett

**Scripture:**

Genesis: 6:2

Genesis 21: 8-13

Genesis 25: 19-26

Genesis 29: 30-31

Ruth 1: 15-18

Matthew 1:13-25

Matthew 27:55-56



**Monday**

Jesus's No – Matthew 26:29

**Tuesday**

Paul's No – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**Wednesday**

David's No – 2 Samuel 7:2-3 and 12-13

**Thursday**

Moses No – Deuteronomy 32:52

**Friday**

Children of God must wait - Romans 8:18-21

**Saturday**

God's Yes - 2 Corinthians 1:20

**Sunday**

Jesus's wait – John 7:6