



Families Together - Pt. 1 : A Family Divided

(Genesis 1-3, Matthew 19:3-11, Malachi 2:14b-16)

Pastor Josiah Stukenberg

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1. **Read Psalm 127:1.** Pastor Josiah expressed that marriage and family is instituted by God. What are some other areas of life that God has designed to work a very specific way? Also, discuss what could be considered human-made institutions. Are there similarities, differences. *Discuss this with your Journey Group.*
2. **Read Genesis 1:27; 2:24 and Matthew 19:3-11.** The Pharisees are attempting to trick Jesus in this passage. What does Jesus do in his argumentation? What does he teach and confirm about marriage? How do you understand biblical divorce and are their caveats to Jesus' teaching here? *(Ref. 1 Corinthians 7:15)*
3. **Read Malachi 2:14b-16.** Pastor Josiah brought up the reality that while secular counselors may advise for peaceable divorce, affirming their love for their children while acknowledging their separation from their spouse, Malachi shows us that a healthy marriage is the foundation for "Godly offspring." Why is this so? Give examples from your own life where you've seen the impact marriage has on the raising of children. *Discuss with your Journey Group.*
4. **Read Genesis 3:6; 4:7b-8 and James 1:14-15.** Desire leads to sin, which leads to death. How do we see this show up in marriage and family? How have you seen sin divide marriages and families?
5. **Forgiveness.** Pastor Josiah referenced Erika Kirk as a piece of his Gospel presentation. She understands that we are sinners, saved by grace, forgiven by a holy and just God. And she also understands that because of His forgiveness, she has the power to forgive. How has God burdened you to forgive someone in your life? Have you stepped into Christ's forgiveness so that you can forgive others?
6. **A Family Divided.** Sin is a disease and has the power to divide. Therefore, we need to be proactive in fighting against sin and the flesh and bring our marriage and family together. Pastor Josiah had several closing applications to consider. In referencing your notes, which point was most applicable to you?