

The relationship between siblings

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INTRODUCTION:

A. The lessons from this series:

1. 327_Introduction to the series about the family
2. 591_Marriage: Its purpose
3. 592_Marriage: Its permanency
4. 015_The man's role in marriage
5. 017_The woman's role in marriage
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7. 244_When mommy is not home
8. 597_Loving intellectually
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14. 608_Training our children: Instruction
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16. 610_Training our children: Direction
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18. 611_The relationship between siblings
19. 440_What every youth wants in reality
20. 618_Courtship: Preparation for marriage
21. 021_The family who is centered in Christ

B. In this lesson we will be studying about the relationship between siblings.

C. The purpose of the sermon:

1. The harmony between siblings is desirable
2. The Scriptures demonstrates that jealousy is behind every discord in this family relationship
3. Principles that will help surpass the jealousy between siblings
4. The use of proverbs to avoid conflicts

[Let us begin with the first major point in this lesson...]

I. HARMONY BETWEEN SIBLINGS IS DESIRABLE

A. The Biblical text

1. (**Genesis 13:8**) NAS77 – “Then Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers”
2. (**Psalms 133:1**) NAS77 – “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!”

B. Brothers and sisters often share the same house, the same parents and the same faith

C. Discord brings upon:

1. Personal uneasiness (**Genesis 4:5; 27:41**)

2. Grief to the parents (**Proverbs 10:1; 19:13; 23:24-25; 27:11**)
 3. Such attitude does not honor God (**Nehemiah 5:9; Romans 2:21-24**)
 4. Discord perhaps will bring perdition (**Proverbs 6:16, 19**)
- D. Therefore as Christians we should strive to achieve peace and harmony (Romans 12:18; Ephesians 4:30-32; 1 Peter 3:8-12).**

II. SELFISHNESS THE SOURCE OF EVERY DISCORD

- A. Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:4-5)**
- B. Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:31; 27:19, 41)**
- C. Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37:4-11; Acts 7:9)**
- D. Moses, Miriam and Aaron (Numbers 12:1-2, 9-11)**
- E. David and Eliab (1 Samuel 17:26-30)**

III. PRINCIPALS ON HOW TO OVERCOME IT

- A. Emulating, it is to do what the other person is doing. You too can be rewarded (Genesis 4:7)**
- B. Recognizing, acknowledging the rights due to age and position (Deut. 21:15-17)**
- C. Understanding that sometimes the blame of partiality does not come by your next in kin (Genesis 37:3)**
- D. Respecting the authority that has been delegated (Numbers 12:1-2)**
- E. Seeking the success of others will be our own blessing (1 Samuel 17:51-52)**
- F. Having zeal to protect our brothers and sisters (Exodus 2:4, 7, 8)**
- G. Understanding that jealousy will be detrimental**
 1. Despair (**Genesis 4:6-7**) Countenance fallen, it reflects our emotions therefore it is a reflection of them in our face
 2. Hate, bitterness, vengeance – for example, Cain, the brethren of Joseph (**Genesis 37:4, 8b, 18**). See also (**Proverbs 14:30**)
 3. Hell! (**Galatians 5:19-21**)

IV. THE USE OF PROVERBS TO AVOID CONFLICTS

- A. Cooperation**
 1. If nobody will participate to overcome and avoid any jealousy which will result in any conflict or discord it will be un-avoidable
 2. In order to avoid any conflicts there must be cooperation, that mean making some attitude adjustments and must be practiced
- B. The book of Proverbs can help us only if we put them in practice!**
 1. **Proverbs 10:12** – forget about the past. Do not stir up the past by way of reminder of your brother and or sister's past errors. Let us bury any bitterness. Pursue love instead
 2. **Proverbs 13:10** – Try not to be an excessive wise guy. Not permitting our pride to cause a precipitated action on the other person, seeking a good advice to treat the matter at hand.
 3. **Proverbs 15:1-2** – Suppressing any conflict, containing it. Our first reaction to any conflict is yelling at each other, on the other hand a word soft spoken can accomplish the objective (vs. 2)
 4. **Proverbs 15:18; 29:22** – Be calm, being tranquil. Being able to restrain self
 5. **Proverbs 11:13; 17:9; 16:28; 26:20** – Do not be a blabbermouth, a gossip, and a spy. Respect the trust of other people and be honest. It is not necessary to spill out everything know about a specific person. If is necessary it must be told with precision.
 6. **Proverbs 17:14** – Cutting it at the root. When in conflict usually one person wants to have the last word and so the conflict is prolong.
 7. **Proverbs 18:6; 21:23** – Think before speaking, controlling the tongue. Notice and think about the content of that which is going to come out, out of our mouth. Also notice the following, the thing we

are going to say is it the truth? Kind words? The things which I am about to say is it going to help the person? Or will it embarrass and hurt?

8. **Proverbs 22:10** – When in confrontation we must be serious about it, do not be joker. Continual sarcasm will eventually break down patients. There is place and time to show others that you are trustworthy, to be respectful and compassionate. Serious matters need to be serious.
9. **Proverbs 23:29-35** – Be sober minded, drugs and alcohol cause one to be irrational.
10. **Proverbs 26:17** – Be mindful on your own things. An unwanted advice can cause much harm
11. **Proverbs 28:25** – Humbleness, we must learn to be total dependent on God
12. **Proverbs 30:32-33** – Leave it alone. Do not follow a conflict.
13. **Proverbs 23:22-25** – Pay attention to the instruction of your parents. Respect them and obey them (**Ephesians 6:1-2**). God has given us parents we need to trust the Lord and our parents when they are guiding us according to the word of God.

CONCLUSION:

- A. **2 Samuel 2:26** – “Then Abner called to Joab and said, ‘Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that it will be bitter in the end? How long will you refrain from telling the people to turn back from following their brothers?’”
- B. **If there is discord in your family, should you and let it continue? Don’t you know that “it will be bitter in the end for everyone?” Are you willing to let be discord your family until it separates brothers and sisters and until you give up and the family disintegrates? Are you going to resist the way that will bring to your family and you harmony and peace? “Shall the sword devour forever?”, in your house?**

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