

**Father's Day**  
**"The Battle For Relationships"**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**June 20, 2021**

**Big Idea:** Our families are not the enemy. We must battle against the devil, our culture and our flesh for the future of our families.

**Be Aware:**

**1. The Devil Schemes To Undermine Our Relationships With God And Others**

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." **Ephesians 4:26-27 (NIV) Remember Verse**

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." **Ephesians 6:12 (NLT2)**

Jesus said, "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." **John 10:10 (NLT2)**

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be **lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boastful, proud, **abusive**, **disobedient to their parents**, ungrateful, unholy, without love, **unforgiving**, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**-- having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them." **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Our Culture Pressures Us To Compromise To Fit In**

"With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly **confused**. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have **closed their minds** and **hardened their hearts** against him. They have **no sense of shame**. They **live for lustful pleasure** and eagerly **practice** every kind of impurity." **Ephesians 4:17-19 (NLT2)**

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." **Romans 12:1-2 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Our Flesh Desires To Take Shortcuts Without Responsibility

“But that isn’t what you learned about Christ. Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from Him, throw off your old sinful nature and your **former way of life**, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit **renew your thoughts** and **attitudes**. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.” **Ephesians 4:20-24 (NLT2)**

#### Ephesians 4:25-32

##### **Footholds That Tear Down**

Falsehood  
Anger  
Stealing  
Abusive Speech  
Slander  
Rage  
Bitterness

##### **Foundations That Build Up**

Truth  
Daily reconciliation  
Working  
Encouragement  
Kindness  
Compassion  
Forgiveness

##### **Renewing My Mind**

We belong to each other in Christ  
Don’t give the devil a foothold  
Share with those in need  
Do not grieve the Holy Spirit  
Forgive as God has forgiven you  
Forgive as God has forgiven you  
Forgive as God has forgiven you

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Where have I allowed the devil to take a foothold in my relationships?**

##### **My next right step I will join forces and:**

- Pray the Warfare Prayer with my family two times this week
- Practice daily forgiveness
- Write someone in my family an encouraging note
- Accept Jesus as Lord and Savior

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

**Big Idea:** Our families are not the enemy. We must battle against the devil, our culture, and our flesh for the future of our families.

**Icebreaker:** Which of these TV families reflect your family:  
Cleavers? Flintstones? Bradys? Huxtables? Waltons? Simpsons?

"There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan." C.S. Lewis

**Be Aware:**

**1. The Devil Schemes To Undermine Our Relationships With God And Others**  
**Read Ephesians 4:26-27**

What negative emotion have I allowed the devil to use to take a foothold in my life?

What emotion has the potential to become a foothold for the devil?

How can I be proactive about dealing with negative emotions?

**Read Ephesians 6:10-12**

What evidence do you see of the battle in your life? Family? Friends? Church?

**Read John 10:10**

What is the enemy's purpose?

What is the purpose of Jesus?

What kind of life have I been experiencing this past week?

**Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5**

From this passage, what relationship issues do you see in our culture today?

Which one of these sins do you think is the root of all of them?

## 2. Our Culture Pressures Us To Compromise To Fit In

### Read Ephesians 4:17-19

Where have I hardened my heart and closed my mind to God in the past?

What helps me to soften my heart before God?

### Read Romans 12:1-2

Where is God asking me to renew my mind?

## 3. Our Flesh Desires To Take Shortcuts Without Responsibility

### Read and discuss Ephesians 4:20-24

What have you learned about following Jesus?

How does that differ from your former life before you knew Jesus?

### Read and discuss Ephesians 4:25-32

#### Tearing Down

Falsehood

Anger

Stealing

Abusive Speech

Slander

Rage

Bitterness

#### Building Up

Truth

Daily reconciliation

Work

Encouragement

Kindness

Compassion

Forgiveness

#### Renewing My Mind

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Forgive as God has forgiven you

Forgive as God has forgiven you

Forgive as God has forgiven you

What are some of my former habits that have torn down my relationships?

What are some new habits that can help build up my relationships?

### Family Warfare Prayer [based on Ephesians 4]

"Dear Lord, soften our hearts and open our minds to hear from You. Remind us that our family is not the enemy. Our real enemy is the devil and he is a defeated foe. Your Word teaches us that the devil tries to get a foothold in our relationships when we harbor negative emotions. He uses our old habits and weaknesses as an opportunity to divide us. We confess that we have allowed our former way of life with anger, lust and deception to create an opportunity for the devil to harm our relationships. In the name of Jesus, we rebuke the enemy and ask for your grace and mercy. We ask forgiveness for falsehood, anger, hurtful words, and bitterness. We pray for a renewing of our thoughts and attitudes to reflect your holiness. Lord, give us your truth, compassion, kindness and a heart to forgive as you have forgiven us." Amen

**Close in Prayer:** Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

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