

SEVEN

INTRO

With the escalation of the Covid19 virus and the accompanying social distancing:

- What is changing for you at home/work?
- How are you doing?

The words of Jesus from the cross reveal timeless truth. They transcend any particular culture or historic situation. It is times like today, like never before, that we need to anchor and apply these timeless truths.

READ

John 19:23-27
Matthew 12:47-50

“Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.” Traditionally known as the “word of relationship” but since relationship in our culture often refers to romantic or dating relationships, we are contextualizing the wording to “the word of spiritual family”.

REFLECT

1. The PRIORITY of spiritual family

In Jewish culture it was normal for the first-born son to make provisions for his widowed mother. What was abnormal was for Jesus to entrust his mother’s care to John (the beloved disciple).

Jesus broke all the customary rules and entrusted his mother to a “spiritual relationship”.

In the very moment as Jesus was dying for the sin of the world and bringing about redemption, he made this bold move and in so doing elevated the role of spiritual relationships.

Qu: Why are spiritual relationships and spiritual family so important?

2. The PROVISION of spiritual family

Pt 3: Spiritual Family

Addressing the age-old division between Jew and Gentile, Paul speaks of Christ’s provision to draw us to God and one another.

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **Ephesians 2:14**

Read Galatians 6:9-10

Qu: What does the effort to pursue spiritual family practically look like?

3. The PURPOSE of spiritual family

In the moment of redemption, Jesus was also establishing a family – but a family with a mission.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

Qu: What are unique opportunities in light of our current crisis to be ambassadors for Christ?

RESPOND

Being effective as a spiritual family in the middle of the current health crisis requires us to:

1. Acknowledge our feelings, but process them
2. Be informed, but don’t obsess
3. Disconnect, but don’t disengage
4. Be wise, but look for ways to bless

Qu: How are you doing on these four application points?

PRAY

Pray for each other for any needs that are present.

Pray for our church, city, nation and world.