

Family: Roots, Restore, Revive Week 1

| INTRODUCTION

This week we begun the first week in our vision series Family: Roots, Restore, Revive. Since the beginning, God has been using the family to watch over His creation. Ever since the world fell, His mission has been to redeem his creation through the family. You could sum up all Scripture in this one statement, God gets His family back. This week, we talked about God's heart for the family, and how our earthly families reflect an eternal family of God that will one day be complete. Revelation shows us the complete family of God that will one day be, and Ephesians shows us how we should operate in our families today. Let's look at the two scriptures below.

| SCRIPTURE

*"I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a **bride** beautifully dressed for **her husband**. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. **They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**"*

Revelation 21:2-3

*"**Submit to one another** out of reverence for Christ. **Wives**, submit yourselves to your own **husbands** as you do to the Lord. For the **husband** is the head of the **wife** as Christ is the head of **the church**, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now **as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.**"*

Ephesians 5:21-24

| TEACHING

These first two verses from Revelation represent something extremely significant as it relates to Scripture. These two verses represent the culmination of all of Scripture. Throughout Scripture you read God attempting to bring His people back to Him however He can. He sends prophets to speak to them, He sends Jesus to save all who would come back to Him, and in these two verses we finally see God's family complete. God's family is eternal. The completion of His family is the end goal, and we get to be a part of that as we build our earthly families and bring others into the family of God by leading them to Jesus. These verses not only give us something to look forward to but also give us something to model in our own families.

This section of Ephesians has to do with the family unit. At the time, Paul is writing to those in Ephesus who are struggling to live as Christ called them within their own households. They didn't understand how within the family the way that God had created it. In verses 21-24 we see Paul inform the people of Ephesus that submission to one another out of self-sacrificing

love is the way to relate to one another in the family. Not only does living this way help us love those in our families as we should but it also gives those around us a picture of how Christ relates to the church. We get the opportunity to build a family, whether that be by blood or relationship, that reflects the way Christ loves us as His church. In that our families can be used by God to redeem His creation and bring more of His children back to Himself.

| REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can you exercise self-giving love within your family or with those that God has put in your life?
2. What do you want your current or future family to look like in 10 years?
3. What can you start doing now that will create the future family you want to have?
4. What special assignment do you think God has put on your current or future family to redeem His creation?