

How God Might Change Your Family

Redeemer Church, Evans, GA

Redeemerevans.org

We understand that even in the South, most young families were not raised in homes that placed God as a centerpiece of their family dynamics. Perhaps they went to church for Christmas and Easter or weddings and funerals, but the reality of a God who created all things and gives purpose to all things was not your experience.

And now that you are an adult, perhaps still looking for a spouse, or perhaps living together but not married, or perhaps married with kids, you are clashing up against the reality that this world can be a very hard place. Relationships don't always last, division can come so easily, and the world around us seems to be so cruel. You want answers. You want solutions. You want and need a way to navigate through this life.

We would love to help you understand how God might change you and your family.

1. God helps us to understand why the world is the way it is.

The Bible reveals to us in wonderful ways why we experience life the way we do. Four words help frame our current reality: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration. As you open the Bible, and yes it is a long book with lots of parts, these four concepts will help guide you through how God is describing to you the rationale behind your everyday experiences. If you are like me, you want to know how this world can be so glorious and so painful at the same time. You want to know how it can be so beautiful and so ugly at the same time. Your heart longs for answers.

The Bible starts with the creation account. God made all things out of nothing and made them good. Even men and women, made in God's image, of equal worth, are good. And they are called to get married and start families and cultivate the earth. There was a day in the past that was just perfect! And yet, the Bible tells us in just the third chapter of the first book of the Bible, that our first parents (Adam and Eve) sinned against God. They broke the one rule that God gave them, and in so doing, they fell from their original status. Sin is the biblical term for falling short of God's perfect standard. When they fell, all of creation was also impacted. The Bible then explains to us how all our struggles come out of that first rebellion against the God who gave His people everything they could have ever needed.

2. God helps us to have hope in the midst of the hardship.

As God communicated the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin He also held out hope. In the midst of the bad news, God also promised the good news, that one day a descendent of Eve would come and begin to undo the curse that has fallen upon this world. And for a long time the identity of this promised one is not clear. You can read the Old Testament kind of like a mystery. Is the promised Redeemer Noah? Is he Abraham? Is he Moses? But each of these men, though God might use them in

wonderful ways, showed their own sinful natures. But the believers in the Old Testament had hope as they lived by faith waiting on the day in which God would keep His world.

The Bible then reveals in the New Testament, *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”* Galatians 4:4–5 And with that declaration, we know that hope has come and that His name is Jesus. Those in bondage to the sin in their hearts can be set free. Jesus will redeem His people, and in due time, all creation will be set free from the curse it is currently under. Therefore, we can have hope even now in the midst of wars and crime and diseases and death itself.

3. God promises to forgive us if we would turn to Him.

While we are often quick to blame our family struggles on others, and there is no doubt in my mind that others have offended you, in honest moments we will each confess that too have sinned against others. Sometimes those sins are small (like jealousy and holding a grudge), sometimes they are massive (like adultery and abuse). The good news is that the God of the Bible is willing to forgive us for all of those sins, if we confess that we have sinned against Him and turn in faith to His Son Jesus. The Bible says, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* 1 John 1:9

The weight of the guilt of your sin can be removed. You can experience freedom from the burden you have been carrying around, perhaps even carrying for many years. God forgives sinful people like me and you when we turn to His Son Jesus.

4. God will transform you from the inside out.

God will work to not only declare you to be forgiven, but also to enable you to live more and more in a way that is good and right. This process of being made more like God is called sanctification. It is a life long process in which we are enabled to die to our sinful ways and live in accordance to God’s good ways.

All those sinful ways of thought and word and deed can slowly but surely be eradicated. You don’t have to be selfish or greedy or an angry person anymore. God, by His Holy Spirit, can work to remove these sinful weeds and instead bear fruit that is wholesome and helpful for you and others. God will transform you from the inside out. The future does not have to look like the past!

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

5. God will shape your family for generations to come.

The same God who said *“it is not good that man should be alone”* (Genesis 2:18) also made a wife for Adam. That first marriage is found in only the second chapter of the Bible. And it is clear from that point forward that the God who created the family, cares for the family. God not only longs for you to change, He longs for your family to change. He longs for husbands to love their wives. He longs for wives to support their husbands. He longs for parents to raise their children to know their God. He

longs for children to submit to their parents, that they may learn to submit to their God. God speaks with great frequency about His desire to work in and through the family that draws close to Him.

In fact, a central theme of the Bible is how God moved to bless all the families of the earth through a man called Abraham. That blessing is ultimately fulfilled through Abraham's descendant Jesus.

Is your family falling apart? Is your marriage crumbling? Are you kids rebellious? Do you want help? Families matter to God. Your family matters to God. And the work that God wants to do in your will impact your children.

On one occasion in the New Testament, Paul and Silas were asked, "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*" [31] *And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."* (Acts 16:30–31) God longs to work in your household. God longs to impact your home.

You have help in your family and the future could indeed be very different from the past.

6. God calls you to look for the day in which He will make all things new.

The story of the Bible starts with creation and the fall, followed by the redemption that Jesus brings. The story of the Bible closes with a picture of restoration. In the next to last chapter of the Bible we read, "*And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."* (Revelation 21:5) The day is coming with all things being restored. On that day, *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*" (Revelation 21:4)

The one who places their faith in God can and should look for that day to come. Your current pain will not last forever. Even the hardship you are facing now will one day be over. God will make all things new.

An offer:

God has designed His church to be a hospital for sinners and a training ground for saints. That means regardless of where you and your family find yourself now, whether a wreck or functioning fairly well, we would love to come alongside you to support and encourage you.

You do not have to clean up your act before you get here.

Simply visit one of our Sunday worship services or consider reaching out to one of our pastors. Share as little or as much as you want to share about your current struggle. Let us befriend you and show you how Jesus has worked mightily in our families to encourage us.

If you want help or you want to know when the next class is, please message us at
Office@redeemerevans.org