

## Keep Your House in Order

\*\*\*I believe that part of why King David's household was such a mess was that he had too many children for him to handle...

### 2 Chronicles 3:1-9

**3** Now these were the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron: The firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; the second, [a]Daniel, by Abigail the Carmelitess; **2** the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; **3** the fifth, Shephatiah, by Abital; the sixth, Ithream, by his wife Eglah.

**4** *These* six were born to him in Hebron. There he reigned seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years. **5** And these were born to him in Jerusalem: [b]Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon—four by [c]Bathshua the daughter of [d]Ammiel. **6** Also *there* were Ibhar, [e]Elishama, [f]Eliphelet, **7** Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, **8** Elishama, [g]Eliada, and Eliphelet—nine *in all*. **9** *These were* all the sons of David, besides the sons of the concubines, and Tamar their sister.

Being a good parent is not just about having children; it's about disciplining them and mentoring them, especially in the way of the Lord, and attending to their needs...

### Deuteronomy 17:14-20

**14** "When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that *are* around me,' **15** you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; *one* from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who *is* not your brother. **16** But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' **17** Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

**18** "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from *the one* before the priests, the Levites. **19** And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, **20** that his heart may not [e]be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment *to* the right hand or *to* the left, and that he may [f]prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

The Lord Jesus knows that romantic relationships, just like money and material things, can turn our hearts away from God...

That's why God's original pattern was one man and one woman, Adam and Eve...

We are supposed to focus more on the Lord Jesus, including the Bible, than on worldly matters...

Our main priority should be to stay close to God...

That's why the Lord Jesus, recognizing that polygamy still existed when the New Testament was being written and compiled, indicated that church leaders could not be polygamists...

### **1 Timothy 3:1-13**

This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a [a]bishop, he desires a good work. **2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; **3** not [b]given to wine, not violent, [c]not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not [d]covetous; **4** one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence **5** (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); **6** not a [e]novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. **7** Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

### **Qualifications of Deacons**

**8** Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, **9** holding the [f]mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. **10** But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless. **11** Likewise, *their wives must be* reverent, not [g]slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. **12** Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well. **13** For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

In passages like these, we see that it is especially important for leaders to pay attention to their families...

Leadership in Christ's Kingdom starts at home...

### **1 Timothy 5:4-8**

**4** But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is [a]good and acceptable before God. **5** Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. **6** But she who lives in [b]pleasure is dead while she lives. **7** And these things command, that they may be blameless. **8** But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

One thing I have not heard taught a lot in the body of Christ is that honoring our elders does not just include honoring our parents; it also includes honoring our grandparents...

One of David's major mistakes was that David preferred to ignore significant problems in his family...

To be a good parent, you can't just be your child's friend...

Your children should feel your unconditional love and support, just like the prodigal son did in **Luke 15**....

### **Luke 15:24-32**

**25** "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. **27** And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

**28** "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. **29** So he answered and said to *his* father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. **30** But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

**31** "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. **32** It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

However, we also have to correct our children in their individual behaviors and any problems that exist between them...

We see such a balance between loving support and correction with the prodigal son...

The father ran to him, but he did have to face consequences, the main one being that he lost his inheritance...

## **Proverbs 13:24 says**

He who spares his rod hates his son,  
But he who loves him disciplines him [e]promptly.

This lack of attention David showed to his children is what brought destruction upon them...

When David had his faithful servant Uriah killed in battle to cover up his adulterous affair with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, the prophet indicated that God's discipline for this great sin was for at least one of David's children to rebel against him...

However, David still did not pay sufficient attention to his children, even in the most serious matters that arose amongst them...

## **2 Samuel 11:2-5,14-21, 26-27**

**2** Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman *was* very beautiful to behold. **3** So David sent and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, "*Is* this not [a]Bathsheba, the daughter of [b]Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" **4** Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. **5** And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "*I am* with child."

**14** In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. **15** And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the [c]hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die." **16** So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there *were* valiant men. **17** Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And *some* of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

**18** Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, **19** and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, **20** if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? **21** Who struck Abimelech the son of [d]Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?'—then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.' "

**26** When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. **27** And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased[f] the Lord.

## **2 Samuel 12:1-12**

**12** Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: “There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. **2** The rich *man* had exceedingly many flocks and herds. **3** But the poor *man* had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. **4** And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

**5** So David’s anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this [a]shall surely die! **6** And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

**7** Then Nathan said to David, “You *are* the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. **8** I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if *that had been* too little, I also would have given you much more! **9** Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife *to be* your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. **10** Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite *to be* your wife.’ **11** Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. **12** For you did *it* secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’ ”

The manifestation of this prophecy is incredibly sad....

## **2 Samuel 13:1-39**

After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name *was* Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

*We see that David had not mentored his children effectively in the way of the Lord, for if he had, Amnon would have known that incest does not please God...*

*According to God's Word, the closest relatives who can marry are cousins, not half siblings...*

*Abraham and Sarah were half brother and sister,*

### **Genesis 20:1-13, especially 12**

And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. **2** Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She *is* my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

**3** But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you *are* a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she *is* [a]a man's wife."

**4** But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also? **5** Did he not say to me, 'She *is* my sister'? And she, even she herself said, 'He *is* my brother.' In the [b]integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this."

**6** And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. **7** Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he *is* a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore *her*, know that you shall surely die, you and all who *are* yours."

**8** So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid. **9** And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I [c]offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done." **10** Then Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?"

**11** And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God *is* not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife. **12** But indeed *she is* truly my sister. She *is* the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. **13** And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This *is* your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, "He *is* my brother." ' "

*However, such relationships were outlawed once God gave Moses His laws...*

## Leviticus 18:6-30

**6** 'None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I *am* the Lord. **7** The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She *is* your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. **8** The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it *is* your father's nakedness. **9** The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, *whether* born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover. **10** The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs *is* your own nakedness. **11** The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father—she *is* your sister—you shall not uncover her nakedness. **12** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she *is* near of kin to your father. **13** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she *is* near of kin to your mother. **14** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she *is* your aunt. **15** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law—she *is* your son's wife—you shall not uncover her nakedness. **16** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it *is* your brother's nakedness. **17** You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness.

They *are* near of kin to her. It *is* wickedness. **18** Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.

**19** 'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her *customary* impurity. **20** Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her. **21** And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through *the fire* to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I *am* the Lord. **22** You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination. **23** Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It *is* perversion.

**24** 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. **25** For the land is defiled; therefore I visit[c] the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants. **26** You shall therefore [d]keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit *any* of these abominations, *either* any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you **27** (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who *were* before you, and thus the land is defiled), **28** lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that *were* before you. **29** For whoever commits any of

these abominations, the persons who commit *them* shall be [e]cut off from among their people.

**30** 'Therefore you shall keep My [f]ordinance, so that *you* do not commit *any* of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I *am* the Lord your God.' "

*As we can see from this passage, the penalty for incest in God's eyes should be death,..*

*He hates incest, just like He hates child sacrifice, including abortion, which reminds me to tell everyone at least one last time to please register to vote....*

Now that we probably have a deeper understanding of how far David's children were from God, we can return to

## **2 Samuel 13**

**2** Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her. **3** But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man. **4** And he said to him, "Why *are* you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

**5** So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see *it* and eat it from her hand.' " **6** Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

**7** And David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Now go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him." **8** So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was lying down. Then she took flour and kneaded *it*, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. **9** And she took the pan and placed *them* out before him, but he refused to eat. Then Amnon said, "Have everyone go out from me." And they all went out from him. **10** Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought *them* to Amnon her brother in the bedroom. **11** Now when she had brought *them* to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister." **12** But she answered him, "No, my brother, do not [a]force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing! **13** And I,

where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you.” **14** However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her.

**15** Then Amnon hated her [b]exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, “Arise, be gone!”

**16** So she said to him, “No, indeed! This evil of sending me away *is* worse than the other that you did to me.”

But he would not listen to her. **17** Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, “Here! Put this *woman* out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her.” **18** Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king’s virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her.

**19** Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that *was* on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly. **20** And Absalom her brother said to her, “Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He *is* your brother; do not take this thing to heart.” So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom’s house.

**21** But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. **22** And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

### **Absalom Murders Amnon**

**23** And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which *is* near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king’s sons. **24** Then Absalom came to the king and said, “Kindly note, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant.”

**25** But the king said to Absalom, “No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you.” Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him.

**26** Then Absalom said, “If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us.” And the king said to him, “Why should he go with you?” **27** But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king’s sons go with him.

**28** Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, “Watch now, when Amnon’s heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, ‘Strike Amnon!’ then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and [c]valiant.” **29** So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king’s sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.

**30** And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, "Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left!" **31** So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn. **32** Then Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, "Let not my lord suppose they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. **33** Now therefore, let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead. For only Amnon is dead."

### **Absalom Flees to Geshur**

**34** Then Absalom fled. And the young man who was keeping watch lifted his eyes and looked, and there, many people were coming from the road on the hillside behind [d]him. **35** And Jonadab said to the king, "Look, the king's sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is." **36** So it was, as soon as he had finished speaking, that the king's sons indeed came, and they lifted up their voice and wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly. **37** But Absalom fled and went to Talmi the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And *David* mourned for his son every day. **38** So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. **39** And [e]King David [f]longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.

David had two years to address the incestuous rape of his daughter Tamar, and he did nothing...

Not only did this hurt his daughter and all who loved her, including his son Absalom, but it also devalued women in the entire nation of Israel...

Imagine if a princess could be raped and that rape could be ignored, what kind of justice could other women hope for if they were raped?

### **Exodus 21:22-25**

**22** "If men [d]fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that [e]she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges *determine*. **23** But if *any* harm follows, then you shall give life for life, **24** eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, **25** burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

What makes the situation even worse is that the king knew so little about his children that he was the one who threw his daughter in the hands of her rapist...

David himself was partially to blame for what happened to her...  
There is no mention of him acknowledging his own guilt in Tamar's rape...

David had three years to address Amnon's murder by Absalom...,  
However, he chose to ignore the situation...

The lesson from this study of the Word is that we should...

Value our families....

Taking care of our elders, watching over and being involved in the lives of children...

Also remember that those families don't have to be blood relatives...

### **Ruth 4:13-17**

**13** So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. **14** Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed *be* the Lord, who has not left you this day without a [f]close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! **15** And may he be to you a restorer of life and a [g]nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." **16** Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. **17** Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Obed was not a blood relative of Naomi, but he became like a son to her...

### **Galatians 6:9-10**

**9** And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. **10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Sometimes our spiritual family will become our family support...

### **Proverbs 18:24**

A man *who has* friends [f]must himself be friendly,  
But there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.

### **Psalms 68:5-6**

A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows,  
*Is* God in His holy habitation.

## 6

God sets the solitary in families;  
He brings out those who are bound into prosperity;  
But the rebellious dwell in a dry *land*.

In the midst of all our busyness, including ministry, we have to value and take care of our families multigenerally to be the Christians that the Holy Trinity is calling us to be.