

## The Spiritual War in Your Home, Part 2 | the frontline enemy

### I. Your family struggle is not against your family.

- Your conflict is *not* with your daughter. It's *not* with your husband. Your main problem is *not* your son. It's *not* your parents. Your enemy is *not* your wife. Your family's enemy isn't even that bad influence at school. Technically, your family's enemy isn't even *you*.
- When your children sin, do you get mad? When your parents are unkind, do you get mad? You probably do. But at whom are you mad? If we're honest, in the knee-jerk moment, we're mad at our kids. We're hurt by our spouse. We're annoyed with our parents. This first reaction, the initial response, proves that we don't really understand who the enemy is.
- Why is it so easy to treat our family like the enemy?
  - It's so normal for us to forget about the spiritual realm because our five senses are so incredibly intoxicating. This is why God commands us to "*be still and know that [He] is God*" (Psalm 46:10). It takes a purposeful, quiet focus in order to see past the physical to the very real and ever-present spiritual realm.
  - Micah 7:1-6 — It just so happens that when we are living in sin, deluded and foolish and deceived, that we make our family our enemy. We lie and treat each other contemptuously. And that's exactly what the real enemy wants!
  - Matthew 10:16-22 — These people had bought the lie that their family members were the enemy, but this passage is different than the Micah passage. In Micah we have a picture of self-destructive, dysfunctional families — their selfishness and self-worship pitted against one another. But in Matthew we see that family members were going to rise up and kill family members specifically because the family members were following Christ.
  - Luke 12:51-53 (Isaiah 9:6; II Peter 3:9; John 3:16-17; I Corinthians 1:21-24) — Jesus is the only way, only Truth, and only life. No man comes to the Father, but by Him. Jesus is not setting forth an all-inclusive religion where everyone can get to God their own way. What He's teaching is going to fly in the face of humanity's self-autonomy and self-worship. Jesus knew that when He said narrow is the way that leads to life and few there be that find it, people were going to hate Him for that. They were going to hate that they had to stop worshipping themselves and start worshipping God in order to have eternal life.
- No one is suggesting your children are innocent, that they don't need consequences, or that your parents or your spouse are angelic cherubs and you're the only wicked Cretan. This concept is very multi-faceted, and I don't want to reduce it to a simplicity that obscures the reality of the situation. We simply need to start by acknowledging *our* foolish predispositions — our incessant choice to attack our false enemies.

### II. Your family is your ally.

- Deuteronomy 6; Ephesians 6:1-2; Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 23:22; Ephesians 5:33; Psalm 101:13
- God has sovereignly and divinely orchestrated your family to bring Him the most glory and you the greatest good. It's our responsibility to recognize that our family members are not our enemies. They are our divinely chosen allies.
- And even when they takes sides with our real enemies or are kidnapped by our enemies, we should fight to win them back, not fight to destroy them.