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You Might Be A Member Of A Weird Family If . . .

(Why is it so easy to get it wrong and so hard to get it right?)

(SERIES: **7 Ways Weird Families Work: 01 of 08**)
by Dr. David Foster

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:19-20 NIV)

Why talk about families on Easter?

Because Easter is about **relationships** not **religion**.

Because Easter is about **redemption** not **reform**.

Because Easter is about **reconciliation** not **restitution**.

You might be in a weird family if . . .

In your family, love is **performance**-based.

"And you husbands, show the same kind of love to your wives as Christ showed to the Church when he died for her," (Eph 5:25)

In your family, motivation is **shame**-based

In your family, truth-telling is **avoided**.

"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." (Prov 28:13)

3 Reasons It's Hard To Get Family Right

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Because you can't **fix** them.

"O Israel, my people! O my Jewish brothers! How I long for you to come to Christ. My heart is heavy within me, and I grieve bitterly day and night because of you. Christ knows and the Holy Spirit knows that it is no mere pretense when I say that I would be willing to be forever damned if that would save you." (Rom 9:1-3)

Because you can't **fire** them.

"The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: 'O my son **Absalom!** My son, my son **Absalom!** If only I had died instead of you--O **Absalom**, my son, my son!' Joab was told, 'The king is weeping and mourning for **Absalom.**' And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, 'The king is grieving for his son.' The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle. The king covered his face and cried aloud, 'O my son **Absalom!** O **Absalom**, my son, my son!' Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, 'Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. **You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead.**'" (2 Sam 18:33- 19:6)

Because you can't **free yourself** from them.

"And God spoke all these words: 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, **punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me**, but showing love to a thousand *generations* of those who love me and keep my commandments.'" (Exo 20:1-6)

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