



# Ideally Speaking

February 19, 2017

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When it comes to family

- We didn't have a \_\_\_\_\_ in the matter
- No one you are related to is as \_\_\_\_\_ as you are.

Our \_\_\_\_\_ brokenness due to our sin nature and our sins is vividly portrayed in the bible.

<sup>1</sup> **Children**, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: **Ephesians 6:1-2 (NLT)**

**Wives**, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. **Colossians 3:18 (NLT)**

**Husbands**, love your wives and never treat them harshly. **Colossians 3:19 (NLT)**

**Fathers**, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart. **Colossians 3:21 (NASB)**

**Husbands**, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. **1 Peter 3:7 (NIV11)**

### Summary

- Husbands - \_\_\_\_\_ your wife, be \_\_\_\_\_
- Wives - \_\_\_\_\_ to your husbands
- Children - \_\_\_\_\_ your parents
- Fathers - don't \_\_\_\_\_ your children

### The Tension

Jesus taught and pointed toward an \_\_\_\_\_,  
Yet refused to \_\_\_\_\_ those who fell short.

### Question

- Are you willing to \_\_\_\_\_ an ideal that may never be a reality in your current family or will you be tempted to \_\_\_\_\_ the ideal in order to feel better about your reality?

### An example:

<sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?" <sup>4</sup> He answered, "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' <sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." <sup>7</sup> They said to him, "Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?" <sup>8</sup> He said to them, "It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. **Matthew 19:3-8 (NRSV)**

If you try to resolve the \_\_\_\_\_ between the ideal and the real, you \_\_\_\_\_ Something incredibly important.

### My Next Step Today Is To...

- Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:1-2 and Colossians 3:18-21 allowing them to challenge my assumptions and experiences about family life.
- Be willing to embrace a standard that perhaps I have or will fall short of rather than redefine terms until I feel good about where I am.
- Point my children and or grandchildren towards God's ideal destination while being transparent about my own struggles in respect to that ideal.
- Invite Jesus to be Lord and Savior of my life pointing me to his plans for me from the beginning.