

Lesson 9:
Families in Crisis – A Home Out Of Order

Dysfunctional Family:

Any family that is not functioning according to God's design.

- I. Visible symptoms of dysfunction:
- A. Crisis and Constant Conflict: No peace or harmony in the home.
There is drama!
 - B. Alcoholism/Addictions (Biblical terms = bondage; slavery to sin) are the result of strongholds - strongly held beliefs or attitudes that are contrary to God's Word, which Satan uses to ENSLAVE us to sin.
 - C. Co-Dependency (stronghold of idolatry: see Prov. 3:5-6) is believing that one's well-being is DEPENDENT on the actions and choices of someone else, rather than on God. This causes one to be obsessed with the behavior of others rather than looking at themselves.
- II. What does God's Word have to say on the subject?
- A. Exodus 20:1-6 The Ten Commandments
 - 1. "Punishing the children..." Sin has generational consequences.
NIV Study Bible Notes: "...Those Israelites who blatantly violate God's covenant and show that they reject the Lord as their king will bring down judgment on themselves and their households."¹

¹ International Bible Society, *The NIV Study Bible*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995), 114-115.

*“To reject the Lord as King” is to refuse to submit to His authority.
The key here is the sin of rebellion.*

2. Romans 13:1-2 Rebellion against God-ordained authority is rebellion against God. (Judgment = consequences)
3. I Samuel 15:23 “Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft” (KJV)
4. James 4:7 God has provided authority as a covering of protection against the demonic realm.

*Christians are deceived by Satan when they believe that they can rebel against God-ordained authority, yet at the same time be submitting to the Lordship of Christ.
It is through rebellion that we become enslaved to sin.*

- B. God uses consequences to bring us to repentance and teach us His ways.
 1. Co-dependency is Idolatry: When we do not allow God to teach our loved ones his ways through consequences, we are putting them before God.
 2. “Enabling” is taking on another’s responsibilities or trying to solve their problems, thus enabling them to continue in their addictive or destructive behavior.

III. Our submission to authority tears down a stronghold of rebellion in our families.

This Week’s Memorization Verse: Romans 13:2

“He who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”

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Small Group Discussion Questions

Note to Discussion Leaders: It is helpful to begin by asking the women if there was some point in the lesson that they identified with, or that was new to them, before turning to the following discussion questions.

1. To understand “co-dependency,” you need to understand:
 - (a) when you’re responsible
 - (b) when you (or others) are crossing boundaries, and
 - (c) when the consequences of an action belong to someone else.Can you recognize signs of co-dependency in your life?

2. Forgiveness is critical in breaking the cycle of generational strongholds. What price are you (and your children) paying for your unwillingness to forgive?

3. True brokenness (coming to the end of ourselves) does not come as a result of the pain others have caused us, but rather from a revelation of the pain we have caused others. What pain have you caused and what damage have you done to others, especially your children?