



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING A STRONG FAMILY



BREAKING FREE FROM THE CURSE OF REJECTION

Isaiah 61:1-11 - *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vine-dressers; but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy. For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.”*

THE IMPORTANCE OF BELONGING

- Adam had a place to belong in the Garden of Eden where he fellowshiped with God (Genesis 2:8).
- God called out a people from the seed of Abraham to belong to Him (Genesis 17:7).
- Jesus came to the disciples and brought them the kingdom of God (Matthew 4:17).

- Marriage is a relationship where we belong to another person (Genesis 2:24-25; Genesis 2:18, “Then the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”).
- As individuals, we are God’s children and we belong to Him (Romans 8:14-16).
- Because God created us to belong to someone we have deep needs to feel loved and accepted by others.
- We experience joy in our lives when the personal people (life long relationships) we belong to take joy in our existence. Joy relationally means that we are “glad to be together.” (1 John 1:3, 4—“that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”)
- Our desire to belong is a great motivator in our lives.

THE CURSE OF REJECTION

- Rejection defined—Forsaking or neglecting a person for who they are as a human being; a refusal to accept someone’s significance and value as created in the image of God.
- When rejection enters a person’s life, they are denied love, security, acceptance, identity, and recognition. It can become very difficult for that person to receive or give love.
- Satan uses rejection to impact many people’s lives. Satan himself is eternally rejected by God. I believe he is jealous of us and would like to use rejection to bring harm to us as God’s children. The wounds of rejection go deep into our soul.
- God does not take rejection of one of His children as a light matter. In Matthew 5:21, 22, Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”
- Regarding the seriousness of mistreating a little child, Jesus said in Matthew 18:5-6, “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”
- The Curse of Words—“And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God” (James 3:6).

I. SOURCE OF A PERSON'S REJECTION

- Parent-child relationship
 1. Before birth
 2. Adopted children
 3. Parents who cannot communicate love to their children
 - a) Parents who suffer from rejection
 - b) Alcoholic/Addictive parent
 - c) Substitute materialism for love
 - d) Child meets the parent's emotional needs instead of parent meeting child's emotional needs
 - e) Preoccupied with other things
 - f) Critical and overbearing
 - g) Abuse—physical, sexual, emotional, or spiritual
 - h) Neglectful—absence of necessary good things in the parent relationship; taking joy in their existence, unconditional love, not meeting their needs emotionally, not allowing child to express their heart, etc.

- Other Christians

- Society (Workplace, Non-Christians)

- Family relationships in your extended family

- Marriage partner

II. RESULTS OF REJECTION

- **Emotional immaturity**-there is a hurting little girl or little boy that enters marriage.
- **Love vacuum** - No person can fill this vacuum. In marriage, the person who struggles with rejection will put unreasonable demands on their spouse.
 1. Love vacuum in marriage. A girl who has not received a father's love will seek that love in marriage.
 2. A person who has a history of broken relationships has fallen into the tragedy of a love vacuum.
 3. Impact of rejection in a marriage:

Impact of Rejection		
Think or Feel Unloved ↓		
Determined to Please Spouse to Gain Their Approval ↓		
More Rejection Come		
Take Over control <i>"I am going to..."</i>	Give In passive <i>"It's ok if..."</i>	Give Up leave <i>"I don't need..."</i>
Emotional Impact		
Inability to express feelings Emotional Wall Performance and perfection Fear and Worry ↓	Worthlessness Self-Condernation Subjectivity Introspective ↓	Regrets Irresponsible Bitterness Rebellion ↓
Spiritual Impact		
Refuses to trust in God ↓	Unable to trust in God ↓	God is a Tyrant ↓
Solutions		
Resolve Pride	Understand Identity in Christ	Resolve Bitterness

- **Emotional Withdrawal**-Loneliness and fear of rejection (build walls around their heart).
- **Self-rejection**-they dislike themselves.
- **Identity confusion**-they have difficulty understanding themselves, and how they think and feel about things.
- **Pride**-they protect themselves by leaning on their own understanding.
- **Unstable relationship with God**-they transfer unresolved anger and bitterness towards God.
- **Vulnerability to substances like drugs, alcohol, sex, etc., to medicate pain of rejection**

III. STEPS TO RESOLVE REJECTION

Psalm 27:9-11 *“Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior. Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me. Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.”*

- Acknowledge the impact of your wound and grieve the loss. Accept the loss as a part of something that God can use for good in your life (Romans 8:28).
- Forgive those who have wounded you (Ephesians 4:32).
- Release all rejection, pain, and anger to Christ and ask Him to heal your heart (Isaiah 61:1).
- Replace the lies from your pain with the truth of God’s Word (John 8:32).
- Accept the fact that you are accepted in the beloved (Ephesians 1).
- Discover your identity in Christ (Colossians 2:7-10).
- Build healthy life giving relationships with others (1 John 1:4).

PERSONAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. Have you experienced rejection in your life?
2. Have you found healing from that pain, or do you still react toward others from it?
3. When you have experienced rejection in your marriage, how have you reacted?
4. Do you struggle with embracing God’s love for you?
5. Can you receive the truths found in Ephesians 1:3-13 in your own life?

