

plugged in – family

Last week we started a series called plugged in and I told the story of my career in computers.

But by far, the most common problem that we saw over and over was the problem of the PC or monitor not being plugged in.

The thing about not being plugged in was that no matter how many buttons you pushed, no matter how many keystrokes you tried, no matter what you did to the system, it wasn't going anywhere.

You could replace the power supply with the best and most state-of-the-art technology, but unless it was plugged in, it was a nice door stop.

Take a look at this lamp. Without it being plugged in, it's nothing more than decoration for the room.

In the same way, if you and I are not plugged in to the source of power for our Christian walk, we become little more than décor for the church.

And it doesn't matter what we try to tweek or fix in our lives. We can try to make more money, get married to a different spouse, change careers, change schools, change churches, change clothes and hairstyles, if we're not plugged into the power source, we are doing nothing more than moving this lamp to a different spot to NOT function as it was designed.

For the next few weeks we will be walking through a new series together called 'Plugged In' and we will examine what it means to be plugged in to God in 4 separate areas of our lives. Our faith, our family, our finances, and our fitness.

So what is this power source?

***2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

***That word for power in the original Greek language is the word dunamis. (miraculous) power, might, strength, marvelous works

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Now there is another power spoken of in the NT.

***John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

The KJV says that he gave us power to become the sons of God.

***The word is *eksousía* and it means power, authority, weight, especially: moral authority, influence,

And we have access to this power and authority not because we deserve it, but because God in His mercy and grace has decided to adopt us into His family and we no longer relate to Him as orphans begging for His mercy, but we are now sons and daughters of the most high King.

***Romans 8:15

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

This is probably one of most important concepts for you as a believer to understand. Because it's in this understanding that we are able to truly plug into the *dunamis* or power of God for our lives, and it is only then we are able to exercise the *eksousia*, or authority of God over our circumstances.

Many of us have been trying exercise the authority of God in situations in our lives with no *dunamis*, or no power.

Then we blame God for not coming through.

And, if we're not careful, we'll allow life and circumstances to limit the power of God in us making our life look more like this.

***Media lower slider 15 to dim the lamp.

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And when this happens it affects every area of our life and we're going to talk about some of these areas.

Well today, we'll be looking at what a family looks like both when they're not plugged in and when their plugged in.

***Luke 10:27

'He answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. And you must love your neighbor as yourself."

***John 13:34, 35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The concepts found in these 2 verses are the basis for all family relationship in God's kingdom.

***I want you to notice that nowhere in these verses or anywhere else in the bible does the word ME come up.

***All throughout the New Testament this concept is formed over and over again. I must crucify or put to death self.

You want to see an example of a family that is not plugged in to God? It will be the family that is constantly focused on self.

In this family the needs of the individual are the driving force behind all decisions, activities, discussions, etc.

This family is wrought with strife, selfishness, argumentativeness, selective obedience, and disunity of every kind.

If want to see an example of this, simply turn on your television and watch any number of reality TV shows showing self-centeredness on display. From the Jersey Shore to the Housewives of wherever to Jerry Springer, Hollywood has

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become consumed with showing the lowest of self-centered behavior as the ‘horr’ and the American public is eating it up thinking it’s just entertainment, but it is contributing to the utter destruction of the family.

Husbands and wives no longer choose out of respect and love for one another, they consider how it will affect ME first, then make decisions.

Children no longer obey their parents out of Godly love for them, but instead first consider ME before choosing to obey or not.

Now in contrast, the family that is plugged in to God has a different approach and the bible has a lot to say about how we are to relate to one another.

Let’s look at a few as they relate to the family.

We’ll start with Husbands.

***Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

Agape, unconditionally, the same way that God loves us.

Wives

***Ephesians 5:33

‘Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.’

The original Greek word paints that word for respect as unconditionally, in the same way we are called to respect God.

Children

***Colossians 3:20

Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

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Rob and Zack, if you haven't already, you need to make this a memory verse for your youth groups.

***Ephesians 6:2,3

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

The family that is plugged in to God exhibits His character.

***And the individual plugged into God makes the family a better place, because the power that drives a Godly family is selflessness.

Whether that is a traditional family with mother, father, and 2.5 kids, a divorced family, a single family or a family of believers like Real World.