

Trouble In Paradise
Week 3
Fidelity in the Family

Introduction:

Good evening (morning), I am excited because I get to share this weekend. This is not just any weekend. This is Pentecost weekend. Pentecost is 50 days from Easter. Why is this important? Because this is the day the Holy Spirit, the advocate, the 3rd person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) was given.

In preparation I kept hearing *Adeste Fidelis*. Anyone know what that means? That's right. O come all who are faithful. *Fidelis* is latin for fidelity or faithful. Just as God was calling out those faithful followers back then, He is calling us to be faithful followers. This is important because in this generation of crazy, of lawlessness, it is critical that God's people have resolve and decision for Jesus.

Such a God thing because the timing is crazy. We did not plan this on purposely but as we continue through our "Trouble in Paradise" series. On the day of Pentecost we are discussing faithfulness/fidelity, on a communion weekend, with water baptism tomorrow. All steps of faith and faithfulness. WOW!

So, recall week 1: Pastor Mike to us back to the garden to see God's original plan for marriage and family. Where it was in Heaven and Heaven was in it. Then,

Week 2: Pastor Mark discussed the idea of family as our mission rather than family in a mission or on a mission. When our mission is family, our family will draw near and He will draw near to us. As a result, our families are blessed and God then uses our families to bless others.

This week we discuss fidelity or faithfulness and what it means to our families.

DEFINITION OF FIDELITY: EMET - Faithful & Trueness

What is interesting is that EMET is one of the words used to describe the CHARACTER OF GOD: God is faithful, dependable, true and trustworthy. Therefore, when we show fidelity/faithfulness in God, we give glory to GOD.

Definition:

“State of being faithful” (constancy, dependability, dedication, loyalty, trueness, steadfastness)

“Accuracy with which an electronic system reproduces the sound or image of it's input signal.” I really like that definition.

So, on the one hand fidelity our faithfulness to family is constancy, dependability, dedication, loyalty, and steadfastness. How we doing on that? What we are giving to our families? I say Ohana because our family members are more than just blood relatives and our spouse.

But also to ask, what is the source of what we are reproducing. As in the definition of fidelity in sound. How true is the output to the input? I guess you also have to ask what is the input we are receiving? Is it God? Social media? Others around us? And are we in high fidelity or low fidelity to those inputs?

There is a saying we can say and teach a whole lot of things, but we will reproduce who we are. So what are those inputs and what is my fidelity to those? God (high)? Social media (low)? Others who are Godly (high)? And yet, other voices (low)?

SO, we can conclude that as we show a greater fidelity to God to be more like Christ, the more faithful and true we become, the more dependable, loyal, true, to our families.

So, one might say, Pastor, that's simple. Right? It's what we discuss pretty much every week. Get more God, Be more like Jesus, Allowing more of the Holy Spirit into our lives, the better we will be. Right? Pau. We hope.

I only say that, because how many of us have areas which we struggle to allow God into?

- How many of us have areas we struggle in allowing God to be God? Maybe we have placed our spouses, our children, our bosses, ourselves in God's place:
- As we discussed in our Thursday evening group, one having faith does not always equal to being faithful. It is possible to have faith and not be faithful. To be a believer but leave their family or be unfaithful in a relationship. I don't just mean in marriage. This could include a child who fails to honor their mother and father (Exodus 20:12). Or, frankly our doing anything contrary to what the Lord would have us do.

So how do we get past this? We do as Philippians 2:5-12 discusses. It begins, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus ..." we take up the mind of Christ. Who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be made equal with God but, laid down His reputation and royalty, to become a servant in the form of man. To come and live among us and surrender His life to death, even the worst death known, death on the cross. Jesus' obedience not for Himself but for God whose plan was for us.

How are our minds like that of Christ? How are we servants in our situations? How are we servants to our families?

The scripture goes on to say,

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with **fear and trembling**; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Jesus is our example of high fidelity. Even when it wasn't in His best interest, even when it hurt, to surrender His will to God's will and to walk it out. All our thoughts start where? In our minds, so we start there and let it inform our actions and emotions. Not the other way around.

14 Do all things without [d]complaining and disputing,[e] 15 that you may become blameless and [f]harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

There have been times when because of what was going on inside of me my emotions would get the best of me. And I became, a MOM-ster! Where my focus wasn't on serving others in my family but with all my dissatisfaction and discontentment. In those times, yes, I said times, my focus was not on God. My focus was on me. How many have had those times? Where's all those dadzillas? Where are those kid-tantrums and spouse maniacs? That's right. In those moments, who became God? Me!

So let's put those momsters, dadzillas, kid tantrums and spouse maniacs away and have fidelity (faithfulness) in God. Fidelity to God encourages three things.

Fidelity encourages trust -

Fidelity encourages unity -

Fidelity encourages a culture of honor -

Most of all fidelity to God encourage one's identity in Christ.

Infidelity - Unfaithfulness which has been wrongfully minimized to intimate relationships. We don't need to go into the details of what is defined as infidelity. Back in the day, there were three basic ones. Sexual, physical and emotional. Today, there are 5-7 classifications which include micro and cyber infidelity. Bottomline is this, whether it be an intimate relationship or a friendship, unfaithfulness (dishonoring) in any relationship undermines trust, unity and identity at its very core.

Most folks who have trouble in the area of infidelity is lack of self-control, boredom, anger, unforgiveness, selfishness, and attention seeking. Whatever the reason or circumstances, it is the plan of the enemy.

So that, we safeguard our families, especially our children from the hands of the enemy.

Parents - we must hear this ...

It's been said, I believe I may have shared this in the past ... the enemy will go after us to shake our homes, he will go after our children to break our homes and steal the hope and promise of tomorrow. That is why it is critical to Heavenize our Homes especially in this time of lawlessness. It is time for us to come under His authority, to know our authority, to stand having fidelity and being faithful to God.

Pastor, you don't know what I've done. You don't know what I've said. The old has gone the new has come. Begin to step out and be the new creation He has made you to be. Begin to live consistent with what God is asking. Set boundaries. Let your yes be yes, and your no be no.

Make amends (P. Theresa and P. Glenn will be discussing this over the next couple weeks so you want to not miss that). In all my years of recovery ministry and we're not talking about just recovery from addictions, we're talking about life situation recovery, making amends and forgiveness is key to seeing victory.

Then, get into community. Get into Ohana group, ministry, where others can come alongside you and encourage you. It is never too late.

God is faithful.

There was a man named Moses. Anyone know Moses? From the Bible not the one from Wahiawa. Yes, God, spoke to him through a burning bush, that guy. He also received the 10 commandments the two tablets on Mt. Sinai. The law and covenant given by God and His people on how they should behave for success. Recall, God's people couldn't wait for Moses to return so they created their own idol, a golden calf. God was angered. So he called those faithful levites and had them walk about killing all those who were unfaithful. He also sent plague. When all was said and done, 3000 had been killed.

Fast forward 1200 years.

Those folks at Pentecost, were faithful to follow Jesus' instructions and go not really knowing what to expect. The result was not just the 120 receiving the Holy Spirit but, the scripture goes on to say that Peter would

share with observers what was going on because some thought the folks were just drunk in the Spirit. Peter explained it was the Holy Spirit and 3000 were saved! That was the beginning of the modern day Christian community. Character of God.

God is faithful. and He will be to you and your families. He can shore things up; He can transform; He can turn things around.

Ohana Group Discussion Questions:

1. What did God reveal to you through this message?
2. What does fidelity mean?
3. Is it possible to have faith and yet, not be faithful?
4. How is fidelity used to describe the character of God?
5. What impact does fidelity have on our relationships at home?
6. What are the “byproducts” of fidelity in our homes? Our workplaces and schools? Our world?
7. What area(s) is God revealing for you to have greater fidelity in?