

GOD LOVES DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES

By Roy Goodlet

Let's begin by looking at how families become dysfunctional. Let's see what happened to King David's family.

Absalom and Amnon were two of David's sons. Absalom killed his brother. Absalom ran for his life. David was upset for three years but eventually missed his son. Absalom would return to the city of Jerusalem where his father lived, but it would be at least another two years before they came face to face. Absalom conspired against his father, and to make a long story short, Absalom died in battle and David once again mourned over his son.

How did things get so bad with Absalom, and what did Amnon do that made Absalom mad enough to kill him? Amnon had raped their sister. What did King David do about it? He was mad at Amnon, but it never says he did anything about it.

Could there be any reason Amnon and Absalom were messed up sons of David? Maybe. There was another son of David that died whom was the result of an adulterous affair David had with Bathsheba. David also saw to it that Bathsheba's husband died in battle. In the long run David had three sons that died, and one daughter who had been raped. Was this a dysfunctional family or what?

A question we might ask is, "Could this have been avoided?" Definitely, if David had not had an adulterous affair that his children learned some of their morals from. But he did have the affair. Could anything have been done to still prevent the other disasters from happening? Possibly, if David had dealt with the dysfunction in his family.

I am not trying to destroy the character of David, but instead to point out that although he had a dysfunctional family, God still loved him and his family. This is the same David who is mentioned in the hero chapter of the Bible, Hebrews 11. He is also the same man who wrote Psalm 23. Yes, he made some big mistakes in life, but those mistakes did not have to mean that God would never give him another chance.

The Bible is full of dysfunctional families. Families that were still loved by God. Your family may be dysfunctional too. Every family is dysfunctional to a certain extent, and Bible families faced the same issues families face today. Dysfunctional families are not bad families. They are common, but they are in need of God's love and help.

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