

Spirit-Filled Family Members: Each for the Other
Ephesians 5:18-6:4 (Part 1 - "Realistic Love")

Three Consistent Dynamics for Healthy, Enduring Families:

- Realistic: fantasy, pretense, denial virtually absent (anger ↓)
- Respectful: attentiveness, honor, safety, trust (value ↑)
- Responsible: responsibilities over "rights"; interests of others first (warmth ↑)

Spirit-filled Family Members Are Realistic - I Pet 2:13-3:7; Eph 5:18-6:17

- There are divine treasures in family pressures - Ja 1:2-4; Jo 16:33
 - ...Christ alone is "the way... the truth.. the life" - Jo 14:6
 - ...lay down our "demands" for family members to be/do what only God is/does - Eph 6:24

Realistic Family Members:

- Give gifts of acceptance - Ro 15:7; Acts 28:2
 - ...by God's gracious love, we learn to accept another's "differences" - Ro 14:1
 - ...our "differences" are often the sound God's voice makes calling us to love like He loves - Eph 5:2
- Look "with" love, not just "for" love - Jo 13:34; I Jo 3:16
 - ...sin, Satan, a fallen world are overcome only by the submissive, sacrificial, other honoring love of Christ
 - I Cor 13:1-8; Ro 12:9-21
- Lay down our fantasies of the ideal family in order to love the family we are in - Ro 5:8
 - ...the grace of God is for our reality, not our fantasies - II Cor 12:7-10; Ro 5:3-5; 8:35-39
 - ...we contribute what makes it as easy as possible for others to change - Ga 5:22-23

Our Response:

- Putting off/laying aside what we did not receive/learn from Christ - Eph 4:20; 25ff
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit and His realistic love - Eph 5:18
- Putting on/embracing our newly created selves and the accepting love of Christ - Eph 4:24,32