

SERIES: All in the Family
PART ONE: Real and Ideal
Colossians 3:12-17

INTRODUCTION

We get to pick our friends but none of us gets to pick our families of origin. As a result, family relationships can be the most challenging in our lives. They can also be the most rewarding. No one's family is perfect, but is it possible to aspire to an ideal? Is it even worth it when we live in a world that is less than ideal?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one of your favorite childhood family memories?
2. Read Ephesians 6:1–2 and Colossians 3:18–21. How do these passages challenge your assumptions and experiences about family life?
3. What do you hope your children experience in family that you did not?
4. What is one thing you can do this week in your interactions with your spouse, parents, or children to better live out the New Testament family ideal?

KEEPING IN STEP

Are we willing to embrace a standard that many of us have or will fall short of or will we redefine terms until we feel good about where we are? Are we willing to aim our children towards a destination we never reached, or will we redefine normal? Jesus didn't leave us much of an option. We can't lose sight of God's original ideal despite cultural shifts and our own failures.