



FUTURE FAMILY, Part 3: Common Cause

INTRODUCTION

When it comes to family, the only thing we all have in common is conflict. Family conflict is like no other because when you win an argument in your family, you don't really win anything. The conflict is never fully resolved.

What if there was a way to resolve family conflict by dealing with it at its source?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did conflict look like in your family when you were growing up?
2. How do you handle family conflict? Are you a peacemaker, sulker, stuffer, litigator, or screamer?
3. Who is suffering right now because you aren't getting your way? What do you want from him or her?
4. What can this group do to help you follow through on telling that person, *"You know what part of the problem is here? I'm not getting what I want"*?

MOVING FORWARD

The source of your external conflict is an undetected internal conflict that is raging out of control. Acknowledge it so you can stop blaming others for your unhappiness and discontentment. It may be the only thing that enables you to surrender yourself to the One who knows what's best for you.

As long as you blame others for your unhappiness, you will always be unhappy.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:1-3