

TARGETS

Where the Body of Christ is Under Attack and How To Fight back



Family ~ *The key to ruining everything, everywhere, for everyone*

In an article just released yesterday, Bethel's **Kris Vallatton** was talking about how a lack of morality creates a fatherlessness culture and how removing fathers from the home causes society to get very ill.

- 70% of youths in State institutions are from fatherless homes.
- 63% of youth suicides are from homes without fathers.
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children grew up without a father.
- 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes.
- 85% of all rapists motivated by displaced anger are from fatherless homes.
- 71% of all high school dropouts come from homes without a father.



Kris Vallatton

Kris also had these **two prophetic words** that are breathing hope for the new season we are entering to heal our fatherless culture, to restore men to their God-given purpose, and inspire virtue and nobility into society again.

- **God already has dreams and solutions for our societal problems!** Psalms 68:5 says, "A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation."
- **God is a Father to the fatherless! He's also a husband to the widow.** If you're without a father-figure I want to encourage you that the Lord can make up the difference in your life, as He did the same in mine!

There is no doubt of the devastating impact Satan's attack on families has had in the last 50 years. The rules have changed. There has always been sin and evil in the world, but 50 years ago most of society knew those things were wrong. Vallatton says, "Fast forward to 2019 and society doesn't even agree on what sin is anymore! In my mother's day, when they did something wrong they knew it was wrong. But today, Believers have to convince people of what is right and wrong!"

The enemy has a terrible plan for your life and mine. He wants to ruin everything, everywhere, for everyone! (John 10:10) One of the quickest ways to do that is to attack the family. Today, we're going to expose his strategies and rally the troops to contend for family. (Gal. 3:1-5)

- Family is God's idea

- Families have always been close to God's heart. In fact, family was his idea in the first place.
 - **In the beginning...**When God created man, He said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." (Genesis 2:18). Then, He blessed them and told them, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it." (Genesis 1:28). Even after they fell into sin, God continued with His plan for families, speaking prophetically of the salvation that would come through the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15).
 - **The author and perfecter of family...**After the Flood, He reaffirmed his plan to Noah and his sons, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth." (Genesis 9:1). God continued his plan when he gave Abraham a son in his old age (Genesis 21). And so it goes, all the way down to "when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman," (Galatians 4:4) to live and to die for the people He Himself had created. God has been authoring family throughout the ages.

- Christian author **Tim Challies** says there are aspects of Christian life and doctrine we can only rightly understand if we first understand family from God’s point of view.



Tim Challies

- **God uses family to teach us about his nature...**The relationship between parents and children gives us a glimpse into the relationship between the relationship of the first person of the Trinity to the second—God the Father to God the Son. If Satan can distort or destroy family, we will eventually come to doubt his love, trust and honor which is central to the nature of the triune Godhead.
- **God uses family to teach us about his gospel...**When God tells us about our adoption into his family as sons and daughters, we realize this is reflected in the relationship between parents and children as well. Our love for our children is not incidental, but intentional and very important to us. If Satan can distort or destroy family, he can distort and destroy our understanding of the gospel, the message of God’s love and commitment to redeem humanity.
- **God uses family to teach us about his church...**Peter calls the church “the family of God” (1 Pet. 4:17) and Paul refers to it as “God’s household” (1 Tim. 3:15). As Christians, we belong to the same family because we have been united to one another through our adoption as sons and daughters of the same Father. If Satan can distort or destroy family, he can distort and destroy our understanding of the church.

- **Satan’s attack** on the family is *not* well veiled. He is actually quite easy to read, besides, his strategies have not changed much over the centuries. So, when “family” is under attack, what is actually being targeted?

- **Love...**Our greatest gift to each other is love. If the enemy can hinder our ability to give and receive love, he has created a kink in the hose that is meant to sustain us and help us grow.

- **Trust...**It is amazing how difficult trust is to restore once it’s been broken. Anytime we wander very far from the character of God in our family relationships, there’s a price to pay. Often, the price is so steep that we give up, cash in, and move on to “greener pastures.” Problem is, unless trust is restored, this pattern will repeat itself with no end in sight. All this work is being accomplished by the enemy at a deep level. At the center of it all is “me” and what I think I deserve from Life.

- **Unity...**Family is unto something. The strength of a family is closely tied to their ability to focus, endure, be creative and learn resilience in the midst of life’s ups and downs. And where do the ups and downs find their source? Many would say it’s just the rhythm of life. Sometimes is is just what we experience along the way, but more often than not, the enemy is feeding us lies and drawing us away from the thing that makes us “one.” The answer isn’t in eliminating the bumps, but in contending for who we are not just individually as a family, but who we are together. A family’s greatest strength is interdependence...the greatest threat to that strength is self-sufficiency.

- **Hope...**Jeremiah’s exhortation in Jer. 29:11 saying, “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope” is often quoted to individuals who are looking for direction for the future in order that they would have hope for what lies ahead. Contextually, this exhortation is written, not to a person, but to a people. Again, this is not a random detour, but a strategy to pull us away from who we are together and feed our tendency to think mainly of ourselves. Not at all the prescription for a strong family.

THE FATHER ABSENCE CRISIS IN AMERICA

There is a crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 19.7 million children, more than 1 in 4, live without a father in the home. Consequently, there is a “father factor” in nearly all of the societal ills facing America today. Research shows when a child is raised in a father-absent home, he or she is affected in the following ways...

Source: 2017, U.S. Census Bureau. Data represent children living without a biological, step, or adoptive father.



- **“Revival looks like a healthy family”**

• **What is revival?**

“The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: “I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.” (Is 57:15 NLT-SE)

• **Revival is about an improvement in the condition of something or someone.** Revival describes the growth of someone after a long period of no growth of activity. A healthy family is a growing, thriving, fruit-bearing family. Here are some characteristics of a health family and how those traits relate to revival:

- **Commitment...**The members of the household are committed to one another. ***In Revival**, our commitment to the Lord and to each other not only binds us together, but is like a magnet to others who are seeking the very thing we have.*
- **Time...**A healthy family spends time together. ***In Revival**, people see time as an investment into something greater to come. There’s no such thing as “wasted time” when it comes to time in God’s presence because that’s where and when courage is often released.*
- **Communication...**A healthy family enjoys open, frequent communication. ***In Revival**, everyone wants to talk about and hear about what the Lord is doing. Personal testimony is not just sharing “God stories,” but a real opportunity to build each other up in the faith.*
- **Support...**The healthy family turns inward during times of crisis. ***In Revival**, we turn inward for encouragement and faith and outward with courage to see what the Holy Spirit is willing to do to through us to advance the Kingdom.*
- **Affirm...**Members of a healthy family express affirmation and encouragement often. ***In Revival**, people, even those who have not known each other long, tend to see and believe the very best in each other. “En-courage” means that courage is something we can stir up in each other.*
- **God...**The members of a healthy family share a spiritual commitment. ***In Revival**, there is a determination to go as deep as you can with God and take as many people with you as you can!*
 - Your leader will break out and lead you out of exile, out through the gates of the enemy cities, back to your own land. Your king will lead you; the LORD himself will guide you.” (Mic 2:13 NLT-SE)
 - And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. (Matt 11:12 NLT-SE)
- **Trust...**Each person in a healthy household trusts the others and values the trust he has earned. ***In Revival**, people trust that what they see the Lord doing is only the beginning and there’s plenty more to come. The key ingredient in spiritual courage is our trust in God’s goodness and His desire to “seek and save the lost.”*
- **Grace...**The members of a healthy family enjoy freedom and grace. ***In Revival**, there is always someone who ahead of you and someone behind you, spiritually. We give each other the grace to pursue God at your own pace and the freedom to trust Him for things we’ve not yet experience.*