

# TALKING TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## APPROACHING PEOPLE WE LOVE

"That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.  
For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren,  
my kinsmen according to the flesh..."

- Romans 9:2-3

### 1. The Place of Christ in Our Lives

- a. Isa 1:2-3 / Rom 1:21-28 – the animals know their master, but man doesn't...
- b. You knew your mother and father before the Lord
- c. Your salvation something eternal happened – Col 1:13, Gal 3:26, Rom 8:14
- d. Christ is our head – Col 1:8, Eph 5:29,32
- e. Our position as members of his body – Eph 4:15-16

### 2. Special Issues with Family/Friends

- a. They are our family, close friends, spouses – Rom 9:2-3
- b. We love them specifically – we know them – Phil 3:18
- c. We spend time/money with them – 2 Cor 12:15
- d. They know YOU intimately – Acts 9:13, Gal 1:23 (John 4:44, Mat 13:54-55)
- e. We fear separation / divorce – 2 Cor 6:15, Mat 10:37
  - i. Grace doctrine does not divide it unifies around truth – Eph 4:3-4
  - ii. There is a time to separate / Evil communications - 1 Cor 15:33
  - iii. Grace never teaches to ostracize your family - 1 Cor 7:12-17, 1 Tim 5:8

### 3. Approach

- a. What if they think you a cult member? – This is a position of ignorance
- b. We must adore God's doctrine more than any on Earth – Phil 1:21
- c. Paul spoke plainly about the doctrine – Acts 13:45-46
- d. Salvation – Make this your goal – are you in Christ or not?
- e. Disagreement? → Then be persuaded. It is you and God. – Rom 4:12
- f. Fellowship → Bible fellowship is around sound doctrine, but they are of your flesh
- g. If you are older and they are younger, they know to give you respect – use that.
- h. You are younger and they are older; Give respect – Slow to rebuke an elder – 1Tim 5:1
- i. If your siblings / close friends – Don't give advice where it isn't asked. 2 Tim 2:24

### 4. What to Say

- a. Let the word of truth dwell in you richly – Col 3:16-17
- b. "Do you know the Lord Jesus?", "Do you know if you are saved or not?"
- c. "Have you been studying the Bible much lately?", "What do you think about...?"
- d. Be patient. They must be willing and looking. "recover themselves" - 2 Tim 2:26

### 5. Responsibility

- a. It is ultimately not yours – Rom 14:12
- b. You can only communicate, love, etc. You cannot make their choices.
- c. There are personality conflicts, there is a time to let it be – Acts 15:39
- d. They have a brain and a soul – they must use it
- e. Be fervent, but trust the word ... God is faithful.