



## “The Mars Venus Thing-Differences in Your Family” August 20/21

**Icebreaker:** Is your family sometimes like a 3 ring circus? When? Is there really a Mars/Venus thing? Are men and women different? List some ways you have experienced this, maybe reflecting on how you see this in your marriage or family.

**Opening Discussion:** Looking back on your Engage and Grow notebook or your notes from the message, what stands out to you the most?

### Digging Deeper

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. What do you think was going on in the Corinthian church that Paul would feel compelled to write such a thing? What change would it make in the church if the members would abide by Paul’s teaching? Apply that to your marriage or family. Are there ways that celebrating your differences would make a difference in your home?
2. If you and your spouse or the members of your family truly owned the fact that God loves them beyond any measure, how would that make a difference when it came to power struggles? Read the following verses from Romans 12 and comment on how following these verses will make a difference in families in general. In your family.

*Love must be sincere.... Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves...Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud...Do not repay anyone evil for evil... If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*  
Romans 12:9-21 (selected verses)

3. Share three things you would like to perpetuate from your family of origin. If you are comfortable, share three things you'd like to set aside. Do you truly agree that the message of the resurrection as applied to the here and now is that you can change?

4. On a scale of 1-10, how well do you communicate in your family? Read Psalm 139:1-4 and apply that to your family. Do you communicate with each other on that level? How or how not?

5. Read Colossians 1:17-18 and apply that to your marriage, to your family. What differences would it make if "*Christ has the supremacy*" in every area of your marriage and family life?

**Moving Forward:** "A trusting relationship with God is life's greatest treasure." What is one thing you could do this week to make that a reality in your "Family Circus"?

**Prayer:** Make this prayer directed at yourself. Ask God to help *YOU*, not your other family's members, do something to transform your Family Circus into something that would reflect God's greatest desires.