

Fear, Faith and the Future

“Your Family: A Resistance Cell”

Week of March 21-27, 2021

Memorize

And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Mark 3:31-35

Open.

What was your family like when you were a child? What is one memory about your family that stands out to you right now?

Study.

If you happened to hear Pastor Jim’s message on Sunday, what stood out to you? What questions do you have?

In what ways have you seen traditional marriages and families being assaulted in America?

Can families who wish to hold on to biblical faith and values look to society or to the state for support? Why or why not?

Pastor Jim quoted a theologian who said that “God, as part of the order of creation, has designed the family to be a resistance cell against the secularizing influence of the world”. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Pastor Jim suggested five essential functions of the family as a cell of resistance (listed below). How does each contribute? With which of them did you most connect? Why?

- *a haven in a heartless world*
- *a center for spiritual formation*
- *the matrix for moral development*
- *a community of memory*
- *a subset of the church*

Read Mark 3:31-35. Jesus makes a statement here that many have found to be controversial. What do you think Jesus was saying about the relationship of the family to the church, and the church to the family? Was he expressing a priority? Why or why not?

Reflect.

What have we discussed in this session that is of the greatest importance to you personally?

What additional questions do you have?