

UNLOCK THE POWER OF FAMILY—*OUTLINE*

What Happens at Home and Why It Affects Us So Deeply

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I. Introduction:

A. Family Patterns and Echoes.

1. *Vern and Rhonda; Lori the Dancer.*
2. Living with her father's ghost.

B. Biblical Paradigm.

1. Family is a *spiritual* entity.
2. Covenant is a *spiritual* force.

C. Covenant Versus Contract.

1. Spiritual, not natural.
2. Self-appraising, not judgmental.

II. Exchanging Names—The Marvel of Our Uniqueness.

A. God's Covenant with Us.

1. He gives us His Name—and ours.
2. We were created out of the longing of God's heart.

B. The Marriage Covenant.

1. Wedding vows and marriage licenses.
2. “Of them all, I choose you!”

C. Parental Covenant.

1. What’s in a name?
2. No two children are alike—not even twins.

D. Dysfunctional Family.

1. Violation of individuality.
2. “Dad is drunk; Mom has a headache.”
3. The horrific dynamics of abuse.

III. Rehearsing History—The Anticipation of Our Future.

A. God’s Covenant with Us

1. He is the God of our Fathers—without shadow of turning.
2. “Before I formed you, I knew you.”

B. The Marriage Covenant.

1. “As I have been, I will continue to be.”
2. Building for the future.

C. Parental Covenant.

1. Parents wait for, and then serve children.

2. "I knew you before you did."

D. Dysfunctional Family.

1. Unwanted pregnancy; disinterest in each other.
2. Erratic behavior; huge changes in personality or moods.

IV. Making Promises—The Assurance of Our Fulfillment.

A. God's Covenant with Us.

1. Agape means welcome and honor.
2. God promises protection, provision and purpose for life.

B. The Marriage Covenant.

1. "I'd climb the highest mountain..."
2. Please your other self.

C. Parental Covenant.

1. We make promises from the *heart* to our children.
2. Family answers basic questions:
 - a. "Who am I?"
 - b. "What am I worth?"
 - c. "Do you love me?"
 - d. "Will you be there for me?"

D. Dysfunctional Family.

1. Broken promises and lost favor.
2. “It’s never enough.”
3. Dangerous promises.

V. Accepting Consequences—The Fruit of Our Choices.

A. God’s Covenant with Us.

1. The judgments of God come with consequences.
2. He wants to do us good “in the end.”

B. The Marriage Covenant.

1. Weddings and witnesses.
2. Keeping the vows; not attaching the blame.

C. Parental Covenant.

1. Why don’t children easily manage to “get over” a divorce?
2. How can we honor a “bad” parent?

D. Dysfunctional Family.

1. The family of our childhood becomes what we seek, or what we fight.
2. Family teaches us patterns for life.

