



FAMILY OCTAGON



GROUND RULES

[Week #2]

GROUND RULES:

basic or governing principles of conduct in any situation or field of endeavor.

Mark 12:30-31 [NLV]

³⁰ You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' This is the first Law. ³¹ "The second Law is this: 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' No other Law is greater than these."

Ephesians 6:10-13

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

When we follow Jesus,
we don't fight ALONE.

Philippians 2:1-2

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

When we fight AGAINST those we should love,
we've already LOST.

Philippians 2:3-4

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Romans 12:3 (NLT)

³Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

Proverbs 4:23

Above all else,
guard your heart, for
everything you do
flows from it.

**When we mismanage our EMOTIONS,
we end up misusing our GIFTS.**

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

**The most significant things in life are found
on the far side of SACRIFICE.**



TRAINING TIP



:: Decide TODAY how you will fight TOMORROW.

NOTES:

“The danger of isolation is always greater than the risk of intimacy.”
- Steven Furtick



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Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

- :: Share one thing God is teaching/re-teaching you in the Family Octagon series.
 - :: What are some things people commonly consider “worth fighting for”? Do you agree that they are? Why? Why not?
 - :: Review the two ground rules Jesus gives in Mark 12:30-31.
 - :: What do you find most difficult about living by them?
 - :: How should Jesus’ words intersect or define our everyday lives?
 - :: Reread Ephesians 6:10-13.
 - :: What stands out to you most in these verses?
 - :: How does this change the way you look at relational challenges?
 - :: According to Paul, how do we “stand” in the battles we face?
 - :: Pastor Shawn pointed out the difference between fighting “for” something versus fighting “against” something.
 - :: Which posture/perspective is your life most marked by? Why?
 - :: What is it about intimacy that’s hard?
 - :: What is it about intimacy that makes it worth the risk?
 - :: What’s one thing God may want you to fight FOR in this next season?
 - :: Reread Philipians 2:1-8.
 - :: How well do you do in considering and serving others?
 - :: What do you find most difficult [or most rewarding] in doing so?
 - :: What part of Jesus’ example do you need to revisit in your life?
 - :: What emotion, sacrifice, service or risk is God asking you to address next?
 - :: Identity one thing you can do differently this week to more fully follow the example of Christ, and ask one person to pray for you as you do it.
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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness.
I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize
you as Savior; and I choose to respond to you as my Risen LORD.
Help me to follow you all the days of my life.
In Your name, Amen.***

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – October 13 & 14, 2018

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