



## RIFTS AND RECONCILIATION

CRAIG REES

### BIG IDEA:

Jesus makes family ties relative not absolute.

### KEY VERSES:

Mark 3:13-35; 6:1-4

Luke 11:27-28; 12:51-53

Psalm 27:10

Acts 1:14

Ephesians 6:1-4

2 Corinthians 12:1

### KEY RESOURCE:

K. Pillemer, [Fault Lines](#).

1. Approximately 27% of Americans have been impacted by family estrangement. How has your life been impacted by estrangement?
2. What do you consider to be the long-term consequences of estrangement?
3. How do you understand Mark 3:20-21? How does it make you feel to think that as a fully-grown man, Jesus was 'seized' by his family? How would you react to a situation like that?
4. In the sermon Pastor Craig used an acrostic of the word 'RIFTS' to introduce factors that lead to estrangement:  
**R** – role of others  
**I** – inadequate communication  
**F** – faulty boundaries  
**T** – two views of the relationship  
**S** – single event  
  
Which of these factors have you most experience of? Which of them is your biggest relational challenge right now?
5. Pastor Craig shared two beliefs parents hold that children often don't:
  - a. A child is obligated to remain connected to a parent because of past parental provision.
  - b. Lifetime loyalty is obligated even when there is chronic stress.  
How do you view the responsibility of children to parents? What Scriptures—like 2 Cor. 12:14, for example—speak to each belief?
6. Augustine said, "Peace in society depends on peace in the family." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
7. What advice would you give to someone who has had a painful encounter with a family member or friend?
8. What hope does Acts 1:14 give to an estranged family or friend?
9. In preparation for next week's message, when should reconciliation not be attempted?