

COMING TOGETHER AS FAMILY

Text: **Genesis 45:1-9, 14-15**

Pastor Schmidt
SUN-AM-12/13/09

Introduction

A. Joseph series so far:

- 1) “Here Comes the Dreamer” (**Genesis 37**)
 - a. God’s Dream for Your Life is Bigger than Your Dysfunctional Family
 - b. God’s Dream for Your Life is about the Journey as much as the Destination
 - c. God’s Dream for Your Life is about so much more than You
- 2) “The Lord Was With Him” (**Genesis 39**)
- 3) “You are Not Forgotten” (**Genesis 40**)
- 4) “Can the Spirit of God be Seen in You?” (**Genesis 41**)
- 5) “Activating a Seared/Sleeping Conscience” (**Genesis 42**)

B. Meanwhile, between last Sunday and today a lot has happened:

Gen. 42
Gen. 43
Gen. 43:23
Gen. 44
Gen. 44:16
Gen. 44:17
Gen. 44:18-34

C. Today’s message: “Coming Together as Family”

Gen. 45:1-9
Gen. 45:14-15

- 1) Fixing family fractures is impossible – apart from the grace of God
- 2) While fixing family fractures is unthinkable apart from the help of God, it is also undoable apart from the involvement/participation of the family.
- 3) Coming together as a family involves...

I. Love

1 Cor. 13:7-8a
Jer. 31:3
Rom. 5:8

II. _____ & Grace

Matt. 18:21-35

Luke 23:34

1 John 1:9

III. _____ & Reconciliation

A) You can forgive someone even before they have repented but you can not have true reconciliation with someone until they repent (confess their sins and change their conduct)

B) There is an appropriate place for “tough love”

2 Cor. 7:10

C) Joseph’s brothers:

1. Admitted their guilt and confessed their sin (**Gen. 42:21-22**)
2. Recognized that God was punishing them (**Gen. 42:28**)
3. Do not repeat their sin, demonstrating they were truly changed (**Gen. 44:33-34**)

IV. _____ - Lots of Tears

A) Seven times, seven times we see Joseph weeping over his family:

1. Softened Hearts (**Gen. 42:21-24**) – Joseph wept when he saw his brother’s hearts begin to soften in their relationship to God.
2. Benjamin’s Welfare (**Gen. 43:30**) – He wept when he saw Benjamin.
3. True Repentance (**Gen. 44:33-45:2**) – Joseph wept when his brothers demonstrated true repentance and concern as well for their father.
4. Reconciliation (**Gen. 45:14-15**) – He wept when reconciled with brothers.
5. Reunited (**Gen. 46:29**) – Joseph went upon reunion with his father.
6. Jacob’s Death (**Gen. 50:1**) – Joseph wept when his father died.
7. Compassion (**Gen. 50:17**) – Joseph wept when he saw the grief caused by his brothers’ lingering guilt.

B) Joseph wept over his family but so did Jesus

John 11:35

Luke 19:41

Heb. 5:7

C) Will you weep over yours?