



Message: **Get Real**
Text: **Ephesians 4:28-32**

Date: **Sunday, April 23, 2017**

We must be cautious...
... not to define God's ideal downward to make it compatible with our current situation,
... not to allow our idyllic images of the past to replace what God's Word teaches, and
... not to give up our pursuit of God's ideal because we have fallen and still fall short of it.

Getting real means showing grace to one another.

Ephesians 4:29-32

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Getting real means speaking in love to one another.

Getting real means letting the Holy Spirit have His way.

How would you define "family"?

How did you arrive at that definition?

Are you encouraged or discouraged by how the concept of family has changed and is changing? Why?

What do you believe is the church's role in defining family and coming along beside families in an ever-changing culture?

Thinking back to this past Sunday... what challenged you, bothered you, encouraged you, or taught you something new?

Based on your understanding of the biblical concept of grace, how can family members express grace to one another?

In what ways have you seen grace expressed in your family?

What were the consequences to your family when grace was absent?

Read **Ephesians 4:29-32**.

How have you seen "unwholesome talk" cause hurt within a family?

How can our words build up those in your families?

In what ways can we grieve the Holy Spirit?

Kindness and compassion would seem to be automatic among family members. Are they? Why not?

How does refusing to forgive undermine the unity and harmony of a family?

Read **Joshua 24:14-15**.

What option did Joshua put before the people of Israel?

What was Joshua's stand?

Why do so many families struggle to make this same choice today?