

# Family..... Fragmentation



By Troy Dorrell  
Lead Pastor

A couple of years ago I was reading an interesting article from *Time Magazine* about the demise of the nuclear family. One of the things to which they attributed this cultural phenomenon was the loss of the family dinner table. The article mentioned that over the last several decades families have been eating together less often than ever before. The article stated that with the advent of fast food, busy schedules, differing obligations, and the TV, the traditional family simply has no time to eat together anymore. The outcome, according to the author, was an attenuated or weakened family structure that is not good for anyone involved. I would strongly agree with that conclusion because it echoes a biblical truth found in the Gospel of Mark that says, “And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”

Fragmentation in a country, a business, an athletic team, or even in the home can bring with it destructive consequences. The fragmentation does not have to be a result of conflict; it can simply be a result of not being together. Teenagers need the involvement and influence of parents and family more than ever. There are a thousand

competing voices for their time and attention and not all of those voices have their best interest in mind. Teens are making important life decisions, and the influence of a mother and father are vitally important. Here are just a couple of suggestions for spending some more time with your teen to prevent fragmentation:

- ***Eat together as much as possible, and talk about the day's activities***
- ***Have a family night out or activity each week***
- ***Be a part of your teen's athletic or school activities by volunteering to help***
- ***Go on family vacations together, even if you don't go far away***
- ***Build good memories by doing something fun together***
- ***Attend church together and make Sunday a special day for family***

Family Fragmentation does not have to be a threat if we will just work at spending time with our family, and if we do not let schedule, activities, and lesser things take the place of what is truly important.

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## EBC CONNECTIONS:

 **Website**  
eastlandbaptist.org

 **Blog**  
pastordorrell.com

 **Twitter**  
twitter.com/EBCtulsa

## SERVICE TIMES:

**Sunday** - classes for all ages @ 9:30am

worship service @ 10:30am

evening service @ 6pm

**Wednesday** - Bible study @ 7pm

## New & Prospective Members Class Sunday, April 19 @ 6pm

This class is for anyone who has interest in learning more about Eastland Baptist Church.



1835 S 129th E Ave | Tulsa, OK 74108 | 918.437.4707 | Pastor Troy Dorrell

Eastland Baptist Church  
**Community**  
.....  
**Connection**

Spring 2015



# ONE FRIDAY

In today's marketing world, people spend large sums of money to create a logo in order to identify their business and create connection with customers. *Business Insider* reported that in 2008 BP spent 211 million dollars to design a new logo. Have you ever wondered what it cost to make the symbol of the cross? It's a logo that has been represented for thousands of years, and its presence can be found anywhere from churches to personalized jewelry. It is the most widely recognized symbol in the world and will never go out of style.

The cross's ubiquity sometimes causes us to forget what it represents. The cross is a symbol of the most humiliating means of death during the time of the Roman Empire. Imagine wearing jewelry with the symbol of an electric chair or a guillotine.

The cross, however, changed from a symbol of pain and suffering to a symbol of the love of God. It was changed from an expression

of despair to an expression of hope. It was changed from a symbol of powerful coercion to a symbol of embraced sacrifice. How did this happen? Jesus chose it. He chose to die on it for your sin. Jesus said of his life, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:18, KJV).

The symbol of the cross wasn't purchased with money, but with blood, the blood of Jesus. He didn't have to die; He chose to die because He loves you. The good news is that He didn't stay dead. He rose again, and those who call on His name and accept the payment He made for their sin can join Him in Heaven some day.

One Friday thousands of years ago Jesus died on a cross. After that day, neither the cross nor the world would ever be the same again.

By Daniel Fleet  
Associate Pastor



celebrate

# Easter

Sunday, April 5th at 10:30am

We invite you to join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The music and morning message will focus our attention on the hope that is ours. Because He lives we can know that our sins are forgiven, we have a home in Heaven, and we have a Companion and Guide for life in Jesus. Easter weekend at Eastland Baptist is fun, memorable, and meaningful for the whole family!

*There will be an Egg Hunt for children  
(through 4th grade) after the morning service.*



## APRIL MORNING

The Eastland youth department will be presenting a drama set during the time of the Civil War. Make plans to attend one of the three presentations and experience a story of redemption. Concessions will be available for purchase. This will be a fun evening for the entire family!

**Saturday, April 4 at 6pm**  
**Sunday, April 5 at 3pm & 6pm**

Presented in the EBC Family Center  
2001 S. 129th E Ave. Tulsa, OK 74108  
918.437.4707

## STORIES OF FAITH SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30

Faith is a word we often hear in religious conversation, but we fail to understand its importance in our everyday lives. Faith is vital in having strength to overcome obstacles, living successfully, having a strong home, and finding our way to Heaven. You're invited to come during the month of April to hear a series of messages on the real importance and impact of faith.