

## The Man-Cave

Women love to shop, but find us men difficult to shop for at Christmas. The marketers have picked up on that and have been advertising items to enhance the “man-caves” that we like to establish. However, I wouldn’t expect that you’ll receive a lot of those items this Christmas. You see, your wife (or girl-friend) and your family value you too much to let you retreat to your man-cave, especially during this Christmas season. Are you a true Kingdom warrior that is prepared to “Lay down your life for your wife?” That may just mean not retreating to your man-cave during family events this Christmas.

Our God is the God of relationship. He wants relationship with each of us so much that he sent his own Son to “buy back” that relationship through his suffering and death. That’s an expensive Christmas gift! We are created in His image—created longing for relationship. When we hide in our caves, something is counter to the Kingdom design.

But, getting along with family members can be difficult for those born into it, let alone those brought in by a marriage. Here are some tips for family gatherings this Christmas:

- Try not to get defensive if your wife doesn’t click as well with your family as you would like, and don’t withdraw and “hide” from her family if you don’t feel like you really connect all that well. Look for things in common with your wife’s family. Try keeping the subjects light and allow them to steer the conversations.
- If you have any expectations, especially in new relationships, make your wife aware of them before setting out to the gathering and warn her about any taboo subjects before the event, and then remind her on the way.
- Try not to leave your wife alone with your family unless you are sure that they are absolutely comfortable.
- When the event is over, discuss it with your wife and make sure that it went smoothly; if not find out why and see if perhaps you can help to correct the problem before the next family event.

You are a co-laborer with Jesus in the Kingdom and you too are called to build and restore relationships. Celebrate relationships and share the warmth and caring of Christmas with your family through this Christmas season. If you consistently have trouble establishing meaningful relationships, there is help available here at Cornerstone. Call Luke or Mark; we’d love to visit with you.

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## **You May Have MISSED OUT AGAIN!**

About 20 men celebrated the brotherhood of men in Cornerstone again last Monday, November 28, with a feast of awesome burritos, chips & salsa, and topped it off with ice-cream. We concluded with discussions of what God has been doing in our lives, what he has been speaking to us, and our response.

These lunches have proven to be very popular and are a great opportunity for men to connect with other men in Cornerstone. Watch for information about our next one, which is scheduled for December 26. Please join us. We'll include time to show off your Christmas ties, or other impressive gifts you received!