Interdependent Families vs. Independent Families
Adapted from Growing Kids God’s Way, by Gary & Anne Marie Ezzo

The Interdependent Family
In an interdependent family, each individual member supports the others to create a whole. Imagine family members standing together holding hands in a circle, facing one another. This arrangement is the best one for sending and receiving family values. Initiated by Mom and Dad, values and moral standards are communicated and established within the family unit. The interdependent family cultivates a sense of belonging, which leads to allegiance to one another and to the core values of the family.

The Independent Family
Members in an independent family structure are free from influence, guidance, or control of one another. They are also unaffiliated, alienated, and not committed to one another. An independent family can be illustrated by members standing in a circle holding hands, just like in the description above, but instead of facing one another, they are facing outward from the circle. The family looks a lot like the interdependent family, and they appear unified from a distance, but facing outward, each member is caught up in his own little world, doing his own independent thing. As a result, children from independent families tend to turn to their peers for influence more than their parents or siblings.

Interdependence vs. Independence: The Consequences
Teens from interdependent families tend to make friends from among those possessing similar values. In contrast, teens from independent families turn to peers to satisfy their basic social needs. They are more likely to become more influenced by peers and indifferent toward the influence of parents. In summary, peer pressure on a child is only as strong as family identity is weak.

Creating a Strong Interdependent Family Identity
So how does one build strong family identity and interdependence? Come back next week for that conversation!

Last Chance to Register for Date Night
Date Night, Sunday April 10th. Today is the last day to register!

Need help? Contact Marriage & Family Pastor, Bill Reinke, at BillR@FCFchurch.com.