

Loving our family

We are family – part 2

Colossians 3:1-25

1. It starts with me!

a. Raise my mind to new levels of thinking

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God’s right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.” Colossians 3:1-2

b. Put off my old sinful nature

“So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy... ⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behaviour, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.” Colossians 3:5-9

c. Put on my new Christ nature

“Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.” Col 3:10

“...you must clothe yourselves with tender hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace.” Col 3:12-15

d. Cultivate a spirit of thankfulness

“And always be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives... Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:15-17

2. I invite God to use me as a channel of his love to my family by...

a. Honouring my parents

“Children, always obey your parents because for this pleases the Lord.” Col 3:20

“Honour your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: ³ If you honour your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.” Ephesians 6:2-3

b. Building up our children

“Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.” Colossians 3:21

“Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting at home, when you are out walking, at bedtime, and before breakfast!” Deuteronomy 11:19

c. Being a peacemaker and healer

“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.” Col 3:13

“Do all that you can to let in peace with everyone.” Romans 12:18

d. Caring for the disadvantaged

“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.” James 1:27

“We love each other because he loved us first.” 1 John 4:19