

Raising Kids Rooted in Christ Stronger Families Through Christ - Part 3

**Life Church St. Louis October 5, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv**

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

Introduction

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (ESV) Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

Matthew 7:24-25 (ESV) Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Ephesians 3:16-17 (ESV) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

1. Root Your Kids in the Knowledge of Christ

Colossians 2:1-3 (ESV) For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 2:4-5 (ESV) I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

2. Protect Your Kids from Empty Substitutes

Colossians 2:8 (ESV) See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Colossians 2:9-10 (ESV) For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Colossians 2:13-15 (ESV) And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

3. Train Your Kids to Live Free in Christ

Colossians 2:16-17 (ESV) Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

Colossians 2:18-19 (ESV) Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

Colossians 2:20-22 (ESV) If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—'Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch' (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?

Colossians 2:23 (ESV) These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Raising Kids Rooted in Christ Study Guide

Stronger Families Through Christ - Part 3

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Introduction

1. When you think about raising kids who stand strong in a stormy world, what kind of roots do you hope they grow in Jesus?
2. Where do you see fear or anxiety trying to creep into family life, and how does trusting God help your home bear fruit in every season (Jeremiah 17:7–8)?
3. What does it look like, in a typical week, to build your family's foundation on Jesus' words so that you stand firm when pressures hit (Matthew 7:24–25)?
4. How could praying for your children's inner strength and a deeper awareness of Christ's love reshape the atmosphere of your home (Ephesians 3:16–17)?

1. Root Kids in the Knowledge of Christ

1. What helps children move from simply knowing facts about Jesus to personally knowing Him as the treasure of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:1–3)?
2. Where do you notice persuasive ideas trying to pull young hearts away from Jesus, and how can families cultivate a firm, joyful faith that resists them (Colossians 2:4–5)?
3. What daily practices help kids continue walking in Jesus after they first receive Him, so their roots keep going deeper over time (Colossians 2:6–7)?
4. This week, what is one simple rhythm you can add to your family's mornings or evenings that helps everyone listen to Jesus together?

2. Protect Kids from Empty Substitutes

1. What messages or trends most try to capture kids' hearts today, and how can you teach them to test ideas by God's Word and the Spirit's voice (Colossians 2:8)?
2. How does remembering that Jesus fully satisfies and reigns over every power keep children from chasing what can never fill them (Colossians 2:9–10)?
3. In what ways can the gospel story of forgiveness and new life in Christ strengthen kids to say no to lies and yes to Jesus' victory (Colossians 2:13–15)?
4. Choose one cultural message your child hears often and craft a short, repeatable family truth that counters it with Scripture-informed hope.

3. Train Kids to Live Free in Christ

1. How can you help children distinguish between old religious rules that were only shadows and the living reality they now have in Jesus (Colossians 2:16–17)?
2. What signs suggest a teaching looks spiritual but isn't holding fast to Christ, and how can families stay nourished by the Head together (Colossians 2:18–19)?
3. When does Christianity start to feel like a list of do's and don'ts at home, and how can you re-center family life on a relationship with Jesus (Colossians 2:20–22)?
4. Where is one place your family needs to trade rule-keeping for joyful obedience that flows from loving Jesus, and how will you try that this week (Colossians 2:23)?

Conclusion

1. What is one storm your family is facing right now, and what root in Christ needs to grow deeper to withstand it?
2. Looking at the week ahead, what is one root to plant, one substitute to remove, and one joy-filled practice to pursue so your children thrive in Christ?