

Closer to God, Closer to Each Other Stronger Families Through Christ - Part 5

Life Church St. Louis October 19, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

Introduction

Ephesians 4:2 (ESV) With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

Psalms 133:1 (ESV) Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

John 13:34 (ESV) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

1. Love Each Other with Christlike Grace

Colossians 3:18 (ESV) Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Colossians 3:19 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

Colossians 3:20 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this pleases the Lord.

2. Encourage instead of Discourage

Colossians 3:21 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Colossians 3:22 (ESV) Bondservants, obey in the Lord those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Colossians 3:23 (ESV) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

3. Lead with Justice and Integrity

Colossians 3:24 (ESV) Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:25 (ESV) For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Colossians 4:1 (ESV) Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

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Introduction

1. Where do you sense your family has drifted toward distance, and what might change if Christ's love shaped the way you relate at home?
2. When is it hardest for you to respond with humility, gentleness, and patience in your family, and what would bearing with one another in love look like this week (Ephesians 4:2)?
3. What would it mean for your home to move from simply sharing a roof to sharing one heart in Christ (Psalm 133:1)?
4. In practical terms, how can you love the people in your home as Jesus has loved you, especially when it costs you something (John 13:34)?

1. Love Each Other with Christlike Grace

1. How does seeing Jesus as the true authority of your home shape the way a wife shows respectful, voluntary followership that is fitting in the Lord (Colossians 3:18)?
2. What would agape love look and sound like from a husband today, and how can harshness be replaced with Christlike gentleness (Colossians 3:19)?
3. How can children learn that obedience is about pleasing the Lord, not merely following rules, and how can parents help connect obedience to discipleship (Colossians 3:20)?
4. This week, what is one small act each person in your household can take to "out-serve" another so that grace becomes the tone of your home?

2. Encourage instead of Discourage

1. What patterns of provoking or discouraging your children have you noticed, and how can you replace them with steady encouragement (Colossians 3:21)?
2. Where can sincerity of heart and the fear of the Lord reshape the way you serve at home, school, or work, so that trust grows in your family culture (Colossians 3:22)?
3. How could doing ordinary tasks "as for the Lord" change the mood of chores, homework, and conversations in your home this week (Colossians 3:23)?
4. If you chose one daily practice of encouragement for your household, what would it be and how will you keep it going?

3. Lead with Justice and Integrity

1. How does keeping your eyes on God's promised inheritance motivate you to serve your family with perseverance and joy (Colossians 3:24)?
2. In what ways can remembering God's impartial justice help you model both fair rewards and fair consequences at home (Colossians 3:25)?
3. What does it look like to treat those under your authority justly and fairly, knowing you also serve a Master in heaven (Colossians 4:1)?
4. Choose one family rule or routine to revise this week so it reflects consistency, mercy, and integrity. What will you change first and why?

Conclusion

1. What is one step you can take this week to make your table a place of prayer, listening, and warmth again?
2. If growing closer to each other begins with growing closer to God, what daily rhythm will you add or restore to keep Christ at the center of your home?