

Building A Strong Family

Colossians 3:12-16

- I. There are many organizations or groups you could be a part of these days, but I believe none is more meaningful to your life than belonging to and being part of a Strong family. Your family should offer its members safety, validity, warmth, and welcome. It is a privilege and a blessing to belong to a Strong family. Being a part of a Strong family also carries great responsibility.
 - During this lesson think about your responsibilities to your family.
- II. The Church is a great model for a Strong Family
 - a. My prayer is that we are building a biblically based, Holy Ghost led community of loving relationships where members daily love, follow and model Jesus.
 - b. The word church as translated in the New Testament refers to an ASSEMBLY and not a building. Likewise a family may live in a house but a house is definitely not a family.
 - c. The story of the Good Samaritan is a great example of a church as well as of a family.
 - ³⁴ He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. Luke 10:34
- III. The Scripture offers great instructions for a Strong Family.
 - a. **BE KIND:** ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Colossians 3:12

- b. **BE FORGIVING:** ¹³ bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Colossians 3:13
- c. **BE LOVING:** ¹⁴ Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Colossians 3:14
- d. **BE THANKFUL:** ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15
- e. **BE HAPPY**¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3:16

IV. Strong Families care about One another.

- a. Caring means "Seeing about" one another. **3** Therefore, when we could no longer stand it, we thought it was better to be left alone in Athens. ² And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you concerning your faith, 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2
- b. Caring means "Watching out" for one another. ⁸ Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world. 1 Peter 5:8-9
- c. Caring means "Encouraging" one another. ¹⁹ So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another. Romans 14:19
 - Here is a list of ways to encourage other people:
 1. Become aware of what encourages you, and do those same things for others.

2. If an encouraging thought comes to mind, share it! It may not have the same effect if you wait. Don't let shyness hold you back. Instead, form a new habit: "13 But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception." (Hebrews 3:13).

3. Write someone a note to tell them that you're praying for them. Tell them what you're praying. You can pray specific Scriptures for individuals such as Romans 15:13, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

4. Realize the power of presence. Just being there is encouraging! When you're with others, you're telling them that they're important. The Apostle Paul closed his letter to the church at Colosse promising to send his friend Tychius "that he may encourage your hearts" (Colossians 4:8b).

5. If you're part of a church, Bible study or fellowship, be committed to showing up. Your simple presence encourages others that they are part of a community of faith and that they are not alone. That's why the writer of Hebrews says, "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as we see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

V. Strong Families believe in Team Work.

- a. 2 And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you concerning your faith, 1 Thessalonians 3:2
- b. Jesus believed in teamwork: After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and he sent them ahead of him in

pairs to every town and place where he himself was about to go. Luke 10:1

c. A football team has an offensive team, a defensive team, and various special teams, but they all make up one team.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12

d. "There cannot be 10 different visions of what needs to happen and how it's supposed to happen. In fact there cannot be 2 different visions. That would result in di-vision. It is only as we seek God together and rally behind what we collectively believe He has called us to do that we can really see unity and teamwork rise to the level of effectiveness that it should." (Mark Oberman)

VI. Strong Families build one another up.

a. And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Ephesians 4:11-12

b. What do you do build up your family. Make a list of tangible ways you can build up your family. _____

VII. Families Pray for one another:

- ¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. ¹⁶I pray that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through His Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, ¹⁹and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:14-19