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## PRAYER

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus, your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away arrogance and a lack of love, which infects our hearts; break down the walls (we build) that separate us; unite us in bonds of your love; and work through our struggles and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth so that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. Amen. [Prayer for the Human family](#)

## WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

If you could visit any fictional or non-fictional family in the world to spend a day with, which family would it be and why?

## NOTES

## WORD

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. . .

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

<sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. <sup>22</sup> Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. <sup>25</sup> For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

### COLOSSIANS 3:12-14, 16-25

When a believer was saved, he was spiritually identified with Christ. He died with Christ; he rose from the dead with Christ. He is now seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). However, this position should not simply be a mental note or point of theology for a Christian; it should radically change his life. It should change the way a person thinks. Paul says to think on things above and not on the things of the earth (v. 2). This position in Christ should affect every thought.

Paul here is giving the responsibilities of the members of the family. It should be noted that the wife's response has nothing to do with whether she has a good husband or not. Her actions must be based on her relationship with Christ (Col. 3:1). In the same way, a husband must love his wife, even if she does not submit to him. The child must obey in everything, regardless of whether he or she has good parents or not.

Oftentimes, our responses are based on what other people do to us, instead of our relationship to Christ. We cannot control others, but we can control our faithfulness to Christ as we seek to walk in God's original design for the family.

God's design for the family is that:

1. Wives submit to their husbands.
2. Husbands love their wives and not be harsh to them.
3. Children obey their parents in everything.
4. Parents not embitter their children.

Let's pray for our families.

[God's Design for the Family \(Colossians 3:18-21\) - Gregory Brown](#)

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. When you read this passage, why do you think Paul the apostle wants the word of Christ to dwell in us richly, especially when we consider our relationships?
2. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = extremely), how richly or deep do you think God's word is in your life personally? Why might you say this?
3. Why do you think it's important to do everything in Jesus' name (vs. 17)? How might you do everything in his name?
4. Verse 18 instructs wives to submit to husbands as is fitting in the Lord, and husbands must love wives and not be harsh with them. Why do you think this is important in marriages in accordance to God's design for families?
5. How does the family described by Paul in verses 18-24 line up with or differ from your own family or a family whom you are close to?
6. If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you be willing to acknowledge him as your Lord, and enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.*