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PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

In Jesus Name, I come to You asking for Your help and guidance in my life. I pray for unity and peace in my family, so that we may all come together and be a blessing to each other. I ask that You would help me to have a fulfilling relationship with You, so that I may trust and follow You. I pray that You would provide for my finances, exceeding my expectations. I ask for visibility in my professional life, and that You would open new doors for my academic work, business prospects, and other opportunities. I pray for good health, a happy marriage, and the same opportunities for my husband, children, parents, and siblings.

Thank You for Your faithfulness and Your blessings. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Unity and Peace in my Family - PrayerRequest.com

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Describe what family means to you in a 3-5 words, Why have you described family this way?

WORD

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

[Romans 12:9-21](#)

FAMILY

We will not place our families and marriages on the altar of ministry. We also see the church as a spiritual family; a community of faith that Jesus laid his life down for because he loved us so much.

5 Qualities of SPIRITUAL FAMILY from Romans 12

1. Generosity

Acts 2 show the early church as having "all things in common." They shared their belongings, sold possessions to benefit the church, and gave the proceeds to those in need. They were generous! They put into practice what Paul would later write about in **Philippians 2:3...**

- *"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."*

Rather than thinking about how their possessions and proceeds could benefit themselves, they thought about how they could help the community—their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Romans 12:13 says...

- *"...distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."*

GENEROSITY IN ACTION

We are to be generous to those in need and to each other because, in reality, we are all in need of something.

2. Humility

The Bible has a lot to say about humility. A lack of humility is pride, which displays itself in examining the sin of others without seeing it in our hearts first. Jesus confronted this sin of pride and hypocrisy in the religious leaders in Matthew 7:3-5...

- *"And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."*

Paul and other writers of the New Testament encouraged the early biblical community to be clothed with humility and not think too highly of themselves. Why? God abhors pride because it drives a wedge between Him and us. He desires to be close to us and for us to draw near to Him. This requires cutting out pride and replacing it with humility. Humility makes us vulnerable to God and allows us to connect with Him and others.

1 Peter 5:5-7

- *"Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."*

Romans 12:3

- *"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."*

HUMILITY IN ACTION

We are to have a right view of ourselves in light of who God is. This cultivates humility in our hearts and helps us love each other well.

3. Unity

The Bible tells us we are to live in unity. Unity doesn't mean we are to discourage diversity or the use of our unique spiritual gifts. It also doesn't mean we will always share the same opinion on all matters. But the Bible says we are to stand firm as believers. We are to share the same goal of spreading the gospel and being living proof of a loving God.

Philippians 2:2 says...

- *"...fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."*

Ephesians 4:5-6 says...

- *"...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*

There must have been much division as the biblical community of the early church began to grow. Paul and other writers encouraged them, and us today, to remember who we are unified in, how to harmony with each other, and how to settle disagreements.

Romans 12:18 says...

- *"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."*

Romans 15:5-6 says...

- *"Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

UNITY IN ACTION

As we are sinful people, living in unity is not easy. We must ask God for guidance and seek the help of the Holy Spirit to live in harmony with others in biblical community. This means letting go of insignificant points and preferences. We must ask ourselves if the things that cause division are preferences or pivotal points in scripture. If they are a preference, consider letting them go. Uphold what is scriptural.

4. Hospitality

Hospitality and unity go hand in hand. We all come from different backgrounds and experiences, but we are unified as brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, we are to be hospitable to each other with a cheerful heart, as we are in the family of God.

ROMANS 12:13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

1 Peter 4:8-10 says...

- *"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.' Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

We are to welcome those within the biblical community and those outside of the community. We aren't to welcome strangers because they have "earned the right." Instead, we are to welcome them because of who we are as children of God.

Hebrews 13:1-3

- *"Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. Remember the prisoners as if*

chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also."

HOSPITALITY IN ACTION

We are to show hospitality to others in biblical community without "grumbling." This means we must center our hearts on Christ, not our desires. If grumbling or complaining starts to surface, pause and ask God to cleanse your heart and reveal to you what might be causing the discontentment or hesitation. We are also to show hospitality to others.

5. Forgiveness

The Bible says that we are to forgive because we have been forgiven. As Christians, we are commanded to forgive. But forgiveness is to extend beyond the biblical community and reach our enemies.

ROMANS 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Ephesians 4:32

- *"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."*

Matthew 6:14-15

- *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

One way a biblical community is to be set apart from others is through the quickness and heart to forgive. This is not easy since we all sin and sin against each other. Our words and actions can hurt others, or they could hurt us. So then, let us remember Paul's words to the church in Colossae.

Colossians 3:13 says...

- *"...bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."*

This results in Brotherly Love

ROMANS 12:10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Biblical community is centered on love. Love is to be the main identifying

characteristic of Christians. We can only display love in biblical community because God first loved us. Love casts out fear, which causes division, arguments, and doubt. Love is of God, as **1 John 4:7-9, 18-19 says...**

- *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him... There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.”*

Love is a choice to commit to serving one another with kindness, patience, and endurance. Rather than keeping a record of rights and wrongs, we should put aside our ways, walk in humility, and rejoice in truth. Love does not keep score.

FORGIVENESS IN ACTION

When we wrong someone, we must be quick to ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness is a response to the cross and living proof of God's love and forgiveness. Unforgiveness robs us of joy and peace. Therefore, move out of unforgiveness and into forgiveness.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How is God leading you to be a part of this Biblical Community or Spiritual Family that is a blessing and encouragement to other people?
2. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being not at all and 10 being constantly) how strong do you feel your relationships with Spiritual family are with people in your church? Why have you rated yourself this way?
3. What are ways that you can practically show Christ Centred hospitality and love to those who are new to you and your church?
4. What are some good ways that your spiritual family are like your actual family? What are some good ways that there may be a difference?
5. Would you like to receive Jesus Christ, giving full control of all you have as your Creator, Redeemer and Comforter during this time? Ask your leaders to guide you through the prayer below as you dedicate your entire life to seeing God reign? Pray the prayer below with a trusted leader:

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 be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.