

# Family Relationships

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## I. Introduction. (Roman 1:12)

A. Text: Colossians 3:12-14.

B. Often, the chief arena that God works out our sanctification is in family relationships, not only with our biological families but also with our church families.

1. In our families, we tend to be ourselves. We often see the worst of each other. (Colossians 3:5-9)

2. Many times, we have not take the Bible seriously when it says to clothe oneself in kindness, patience, love, and perseverance. Our sins in the area of interpersonal relationships grieve God. (Ephesians 4:30)

## II. In this passage, Paul refers to us as “God’s chosen people,” “holy,” and “dearly loved.” (Ephesians 1:4)

A. We struggle to believe these aspects of what God has done for us and how He feels for us because we look at our own unworthiness, rather than Christ’s cleansing work for us.

B. We must be convinced of God’s love for us before we can pass it on to others.

## III. There are two foundational traits described here- humility and love- upon which the others rest and flow from.

A. Love is considered to be the most important trait for Christians to have in the New Testament.

B. Humility is an abiding sense of ill-deservedness because of one’s sinfulness and a consciousness that what good there is in me is due to the grace of God working in one’s life.

1. Grace is the soil from which humility grows. Nurturing grace is the only way to grow in humility.

- a) Without grace, humility and confidence can only grow at each other’s expense.
- b) Grace allows them to grow together and balance each other. (1 Corinthians 15:9; Ephesians; 1 Timothy)

2. One way to measure humility is to measure how strong our tendency to criticize others is.

a) We should be suspicious of our own hearts and occupied with cleaning them as opposed to focusing on other people’s hearts. (Romans 15:4)

b) Humility leads to forbearance, which is putting up with the faults and failures of other people. Forgiveness is letting go of actual wrongs done against us, which comes from a recognition of how much God has forgiven us. (Matthew 18:21-35)

C. Love gives value to all of the other good character traits that the Bible commands.  
(1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 4-end)

1. The first step toward love is treating others as we would like to be treated. (Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 13:8-12; Matthew 7:12)

2. God has been teaching us to love each other, but we must pursue loving others even more. (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

**Application questions:**

1. Why must we truly believe that God loves us in order to love others?

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2. What is it about love that gives value to the other Christian character traits?

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3. Why is living by grace necessary to growing in humility?

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