

## “Hope for Less-than-Perfect Families”

Colossians 3:5-17

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GOD DOESN'T DEMAND PERFECTION FROM OUR FAMILIES . . . HE WANTS “REAL” OVER “PERFECT”.

HOPE FOR LESS-THAN-PERFECT FAMILIES:

- IS FOUND IN JESUS.

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Colossians 3:1-3 (English Standard Version)

- ALLOWS US TO PUT AWAY THOSE THINGS THAT ARE HARMFUL TO HEALTHY FAMILIES.

*Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup>In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup>But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices . . .*

Colossians 3:5-9 (ESV)

- GIVES US A NEW WARDROBE . . . AND A NEW WAY OF BEING WITH ONE ANOTHER.

*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. Colossians 3:12-14 (ESV)*

### THREE TIPS . . .

1. LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE.

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15 (ESV)*

2. LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL.

*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. Colossians 3:16 (ESV)*

3. LET THANKFULNESS TO CHRIST GUIDE.

*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. Colossians 3:17 (ESV)*