

CREATED TO BELONG TO GOD'S FAMILY

(1 John 3:1) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knows us not, because it knew Him not.

REVIEW

- 1. Life is about God and His purposes.**
- 2. Knowing God's purposes:**
 - a. Gives meaning to life
 - b. Simplifies our life
 - c. Focusses our life
 - d. Motivates our life
 - e. Prepares us for eternity.

THREE GREAT TRUTHS

1. Be God-centered against self-centered
2. Grow to be like Jesus.
3. Make a difference for God and in lives.

REVIEW

We are created by his pleasure and for his pleasure.

God is pleased when:

1. We love Him supremely
2. We trust Him completely
3. We obey Him whole-heartedly
4. We praise Him continually
5. We use our talents and giftedness...

(1) PLANNED AND PURPOSED

(Ephesians 1:5) *Having predestinated us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*

1. **God's nature is relational – Father, Son & Spirit.**
2. **He desires a family to love and to be loved.**

(James 1:18) *Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*

(1) PLANNED AND PURPOSED

3. Adopted is through faith in Jesus Christ.

(John 1:12) *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name.*

4. Adoption costs God His Son.

(Galatians 4:4,5) *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

(1) PLANNED AND PURPOSED

5. God's family is much stronger and permanent.

(Ephesians 3:14,15) For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.

(2) UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

(1 John 3:1) *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.*

1. God has a long fuse.

(Psalms 103:8) *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

2. God has unexplainable mercy.

(Psalms 103:9) *He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger forever.*

(2) UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

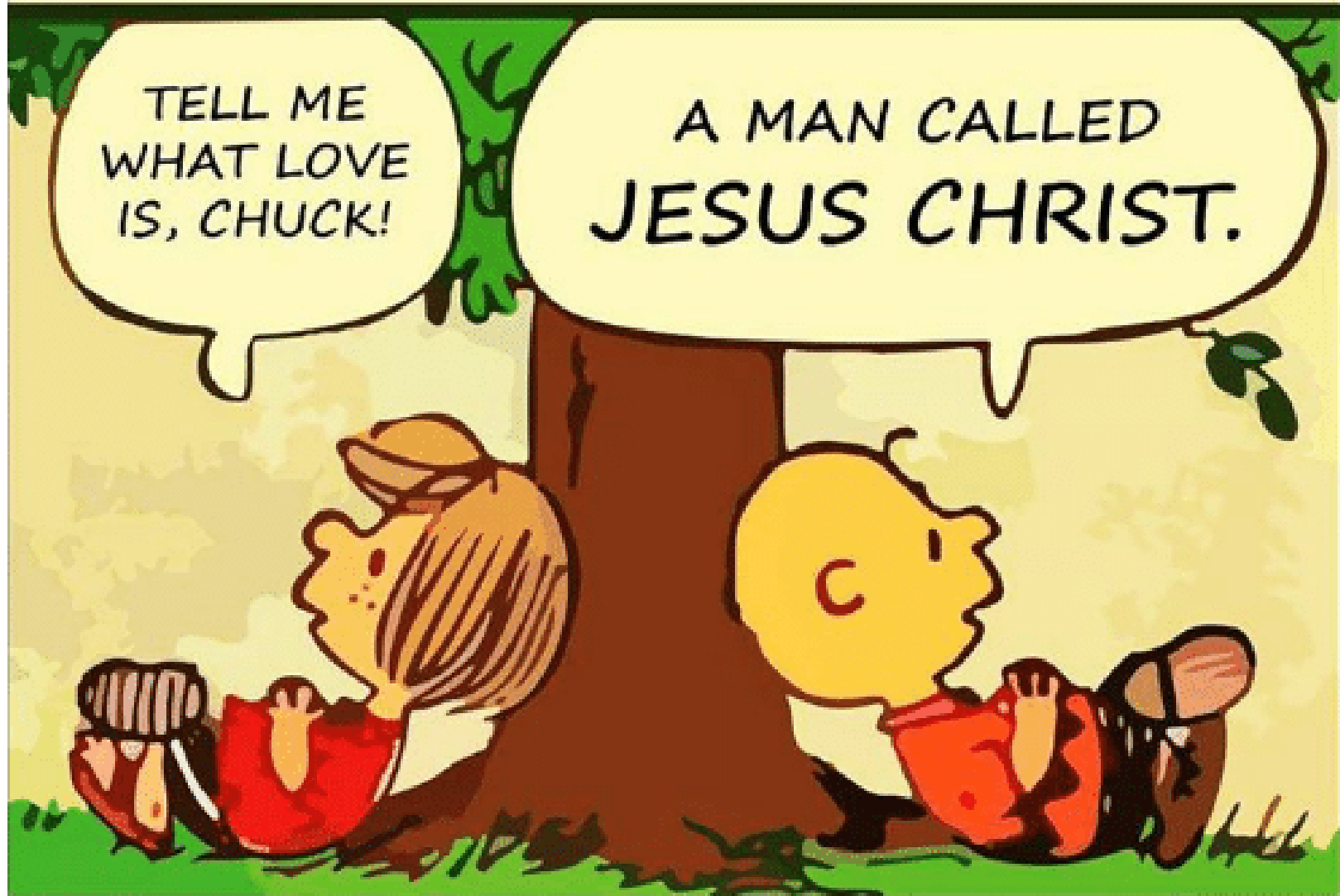
3. God can have a short memory.

(Psalms 103:10) He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

4. God has a big heart.

(Psalms 103:11) For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.

PEANUTS



TELL ME
WHAT LOVE
IS, CHUCK!

A MAN CALLED
JESUS CHRIST.

(3) HIS INHERITANCE

(Romans 8:15) *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

(Romans 8:16) *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

(Romans 8:17) *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.*

(3) HIS INHERITANCE

1. Some Birthday Gifts:

- a. Family name
- b. Family likeness
- c. Family privileges
- d. Family intimate access
- e. Family inheritance

2. Blessings

- a. All spiritual blessings (Eph. 3:1)
- b. All promises (2 Cor. 1:20)
- c. All things for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3,4)

(3) HIS INHERITANCE

3. Provision and Presence of Holy Spirit

- a.** Indwelling and Filling
- b.** Christ-consciousness
- c.** Christ-likeness
- d.** Access to the Father

(4) LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

4. Eternal Heritage

(1 Peter 1:4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in Heaven for you.

- a. Forever with God (1 Thess. 4:17)
- b. Changed to be like Christ (1 John 3:2)
- c. Freed from all pain and suffering (Rev. 21:4)
- d. Rewarded and assigned to position (Matt. 25)
- e. Share in Christ's glory (Rom. 8:7).

(4) LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

(Ephesians 4:24) *And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

(Romans 8:29) *For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the Image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

- 1. God prepares us by the Holy Spirit, through Bible reading, prayer, circumstances and the Church.**

(4) LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

2. The kind of Character:

a. Be-attitudes of Jesus (Matt. 5:1-12)

b. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)

c. Love (1 Cor. 13)

(2 Peter 1:5-8) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

*And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience;
and to patience godliness;*

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(4) LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

(Hebrews 12:5-11) *My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him:*

For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.

If ye endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not?

Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

(4) LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

3. One action is through discipline.

- a. It never involves wrathful judgement (Rom. 8:1).
- b. He disciplines because He loves us.
- c. It proves that He is our Father.
- d. For testing, prevention, correction or growth
 - 1) Job in testing (Job 1,2)
 - 2) Peter, sobbing with shame (Matt. 26)
 - 3) Paul with thorn in flesh (2 Cor. 12)
- e. Do not make light of it or lose heart.
- f. It will yield peaceable fruits of righteousness.

(5) OUR RESPONSE

(Matthew 22:37,38) *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

This is the first and great commandment.

- LOVING GOD IS OUR GREATEST PRIVILEGE.
- BEING LOVED BY US GIVES GOD MUCH PLEASURE.

(5) OUR RESPONSE

1. Talk and share life's experiences with Him.

a. Invite Him into every area of life.

b. Walk with Him in continual attitude.

(1 Thessalonians 5:17) *Pray without ceasing.*

c. Use “breath prayers” – You are with me.

d. Cultivate the skills, training minds.

(5) OUR RESPONSE

2. Meditate continually on Who He is and what He has done for me.

a. Chew the cud of His Word.

(Psalms 119:97) *O how love I Thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

b. HE shares secrets.

(Psalms 25:14) *The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.*

(5) OUR RESPONSE

3. Choose to obey Him by faith.

(1 Samuel 15:22) *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

a. Jesus did it out of love and delight.

(Psalms 40:8) *I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.*

b. We please Him even in smallest thing.

(Mark 9:41) *For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in My Name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.*

(5) OUR RESPONSE

4. **Desire His Presence more than anything else.**

(Psalms 42:1) *As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after Thee, O God.*

(Philippians 3:8) *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

- a. Because God is with us all the time, no place is closer to Him than the place we are right now.
- b. We are as close to God as we choose to be.
- c. “Lord, more than anything else or anybody else, I desire to know You more and love You better.”

REFLECTIONS

1. How long has it been that I allow God to have me – uninterrupted and silent time with Him?
2. How long has it been that I allow God to love and sing over me?

(Zephaniah 3:17) The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

(John 13:35) By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

(1 John 3:16) Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren..

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The place to love

a. The Everyday Commandment is most important.

It is when we are most like God.

(1 John 4:8) *He that loves not knows not God; for God is love.*

(Galatians 5:14) *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The place to love

b. Loving God cannot be separated from loving people.

1) Love is expressed in context of relationships.

(1 John 4:20) If a man say, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

2) God designs us both to depend on Him and people.

Love, care, edify, comfort, serve, admonish one another – some 250 times in NT.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The place to love

3) Having Needs is not wrong.

a) Dangerous to deny our needs.

Self-reliance and egotism set in.

b) Dangerous to exalt our neediness

Selfishness and demanding spirit set in.

c) Dangerous to condemn our neediness

Self-condemnation sets in.

d) Be careful of co-dependency.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The place to love

c. Greatest witness to the world is our love.

(John 13:35) *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

1) God trains us by giving us family responsibilities.

2) Love cannot be learned in isolation.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The place to love

d. Life without love is really worthless.

(1 Corinthians 13:1-3) Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profits me nothing.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The place to love

d. Life without love is really worthless.

1) Life is about relationships.

Jesus says: Love God and love people.

2) Busyness is a great enemy.

3) Life minus love equals nothing.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The place to love

e. Love will last forever.

(1 Corinthians 13:13) *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

1) Love is eternal and leaves an enduring legacy.

2) In our final moments, it is all about relationships.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The place to love

f. We will be evaluated on our love.

(Matthew 25:40) *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.*

1) God reviews us how we treat people.

(James 1:27) *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The place to love

f. We will be evaluated on our love.

2) When we see Jesus, we leave everything behind except our character.

(Galatians 5:6) For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision avails any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which works by love.

3) Love is self-giving up to give out.
The best time to love is NOW.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The place to belong

(Ephesians 2:19) *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

(1 Timothy 3:15) *But if I tarry long, that thou may know how thou ought to behave thyself in the House of God, which is the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

d. We are created for community and fellowship and His purposes.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The place to belong

e. Bible knows nothing about solitary saints.

(1 Corinthians 12:12) For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

f. We are connected to one another.

(Colossians 2:19) And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increases with the increase of God.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The place to belong

d. Being in the church family

1) Identifies us as genuine believers

(John 13:35) *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

2) Moves us out of self-centered isolation

(1 Corinthians 12:26) *And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The place to belong

d. Being in the church family

3) Develops spiritual muscle

(Ephesians 4:16) *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

4) The church, Body of Christ needs us.

(1 Corinthians 12:27) *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The place to belong

d. Being in the church family

5) Helps to keep us from backsliding

(Hebrews 3:13) *But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

6) Shares in Christ's mission to world

(Ephesians 2:10) *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The place to belong

e. Loving Family is called Fellowship – experiencing life

1) Experience authenticity – heart to heart

(1 John 1:7) *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

2) Experience mutuality – encouragement & care

(1 Thessalonians 5:11) *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The place to belong

e. Loving Family is called Fellowship – experiencing life

3) Experience sympathy – enter into pain

(Colossians 3:12) *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

4) Experience mercy – fight, flee or forgive.

(Colossians 3:13) *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The place to belong

f. Loving Family is called Fellowship – experiencing life

5) Committing to honesty – care to resolve

(Gal 6:1) *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

6) Committing to humility

(1Pe 5:5) *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2. The place to belong

g. Loving Family is called Fellowship – experiencing life

7) Committing to respect and understanding

(Rom 15:2) *Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.*

8) Committing to warm acceptance

(1Pe 5:14) *Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity.*
Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

9) Committing to gathering

(Heb10:25) *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,* *as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

(1Pe 4:10) As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

a. God has designed us to make a difference for Him.

1) We are created to serve God.

(Eph 2:10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

a. God has designed us to make a difference.

2) We are saved to serve God.

(1 Cor. 6:20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

3) We are called to serve God.

(2 Tim. 1:9) Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

a. God has designed us to make a difference.

4) We are commanded to serve God.

(Mat 20:27,28) And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

b. Using our SHAPE to minister to others.

1) **S** – Spiritual Gifts

(1 Co 12:11) *But all these works that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He wills.*

2) **H** – Heart, desires and passion

(Pro 27:19) *As in water face answers to face, so the heart of man to man.*

3) **A** – Abilities, natural talents

(Dan 1:4) *Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

b. Using our SHAPE to minister to others.

4) **P** – Personality

(1Co 12:6) *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all.*

5) **E** – Experience (Wounded Healers)

(2Co 1:3,4) *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

c. We serve God by serving people as stewards.

1) Make ourselves available.

(Gal 6:10) *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

2) Do all with dedication and faithfulness.

(Col 3:23) *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

c. We serve God by serving people as stewards.

3) No competing, no vain glory

(Gal 5:26) *Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*

4) Base our identity and significance in Christ.

(Col 2:10) *And ye are complete in Him, who is the Head of all principality and power:*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

d. Specific cases

- 1) Matt. 25:31-46 – hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick and in prison
- 2) James 1:27 – fatherless and widows
- 3) James 2:1-4 – God no respecter of person
- 4) James 2:14-17 – naked and hungry
- 5) Matt 10:42 – little ones, targets of world

(Acts 9:36) Now there was at Joppa a certain ... called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

e. Intentional connection

- 1) Spontaneous acts
- 2) Make time for projects.
 - a) Schedule and sacrifice time.
 - b) Plan projects for specific cases
 - c) Hazards: Tyranny of routine and sameness, leading to staleness.

f. Vulnerable?

- 1) To hurt?
- 2) To sponging?
- 3) Snowed under?

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

g. Build Bridges:

- 1) Be positive rather than negative. When tempted to fight back, stop and think –This person must be really hurting. I refuse to turn against him. Lord, how can I express Your love?
- 2) Be gracious rather than irritated. Remember that those surface reactions are probably a cheap cover-up. To respond in grace and kindness will often unmask the “real person” down inside.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The place to serve

g. Build Bridges:

- 3) Be creative rather than traditional. Look for new ways of reaching out and encouraging. Fight the old urge to reject and criticize. Go out of the way to show you really care.
- 4) Be available rather than distant. Open your heart and your home. Bridges are not built with just a handshake at church or a smile. Loving the unlovely takes time and effort. Availability is not optional. It is essential!

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Aspects of caring.

C - CONNECT

A - ATTEND

R - RESPECT

E - ENDURE

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Aspects of caring.

a. Connect – Intentional Contact

1) With God (Eph. 2:10) S.H.A.P.E.

2) With People (Luke 14:21,23)

(Luke 14:21) *Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Aspects of caring.

b. Attend – Intentional Positioning

- 1) Physical Needs (Jam. 1:27; 2:14-18)
- 2) Emotional/Spiritual (1 Thess. 5:14)
- 3) Like Jesus, doing good (Acts 10:38)

(Acts 10:38) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Aspects of caring.

c. Respect – Attitude of Acceptance

- 1) Intrinsic Worth Gen. 1:26; Jam. 3:9
- 2) Potential growth 2 Cor. 3:18
- 3) Worthwhile behavior Phil. 4:8,9

(Philippians 4:8) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Aspects of caring.

d. Endure – Attitude of Patience

1) Patience required 2 Tim. 2:24-26

2) Steadfastness 1 Cor. 15:58

(1 Corinthians 15:58) *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Aspects of caring.

e. Ministering to Needs

- 1) They are insecure, give them confidence (Heb. 10:25).
- 2) They like to feel special, honor them (Rom. 12:10).
- 3) They look for a better tomorrow, give them hope (Lam. 3:21-23).
- 4) They need to be understood, listen to them (Rom. 12:15).
- 5) They lack direction, chart for them (1 Peter 5:1-2).

(Lamentations 3:22,23) It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

(6) FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Aspects of caring.

- 6) They are needy, speak to needs first (Phil. 2:4).
- 7) They are down in emotion, encourage them (Col. 3:12,13).
- 8) They want to succeed, help them win (Eccl. 4:9,10).
- 9) They desire relationships, provide community (1 Cor. 12:26).
- 10) They seek models, be a good example (1 Cor. 11:1).

(Philippians 2:4) Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

REFLECTIONS

1. If I say I love God and yet have grudges and resentment against others, what does it say about my love for God?

(1 Jn 4:20) If a man say, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

2. When was the last time I actively sought to serve and bless someone?

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Please share three blessings that you have received in the teaching. Be specific and in detail.
2. Please share three ways how you can use the session teaching in your own personal life or in your ministry. Please give examples of the issues and your plans to resolve them and to grow.



**NEED
HELP?**

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