



Emulating Christ

There was once a story depicting a little girl who wanted to look like a particular heroine. Each day, she would walk to the statue of the heroine and took note of one feature and would try to change herself. The days passed and one day, she actually looked like the heroine that she so admired.

Of course this is just an external change but it is an example of how we can do the same with when pursuing a Christ-like life. We are to focus on a part of our character to work on and change each day. We will not be perfect like Christ on this earth but we can gradually become more and more like our Master. This is the sanctification process. In our society where everything comes instantly, be it noodles, soup, tea, coffee etc. sanctification is something that we have to patiently work on.

We are living at a time where the family unit is under great attack from the evil one. Families are slowly breaking down with soured relationships. So how can we protect our families? The way is to build up each member and exhort one another to emulate Christ in their daily walk. In this way, as members strive to live a godly life and seek to glorify God in their word and deeds, they will form a strong building block for the godly family.

Ephesians 4:32

“And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

1. Be Kind and Gentle

Very often, we take our family

members for granted and they are the first people to bear the brunt of our ill temper. This should not be so, Christ was always kind and gentle with His words towards others, even towards his enemies who seek to catch him speak blasphemies. Imagine confessing to be a Christian, and at the slightest provocation, shout and raved like a mad dog.

We have all sinned in such great magnitude against God and yet He has graciously erased them all on the account of Christ dying for our sins. How can we be so unforgiving because of a minor offence against us?

2. Forgiving

There is much to say about forgiveness. Very often, we take offence at the slightest remark or criticism from our family. And we bear a grudge for the whole day or even longer. What offence toward us is so bad that we are unable to forgive each other? We have all sinned in such great magnitude against God and yet He has graciously erased them all on the account of Christ dying for our sins. How can we be so unforgiving because of a minor offence against us? Remember the parable of the unforgiving servant!

Many times, relationships are soured because of an unforgiving spirit. I have personally known someone who has bore a grudge of bad treatment for twenty years! Imagine how much bitterness has been built up in the heart. The bad feeling could have been released back then and replaced with the joy of the Lord!

Having said the above, it is understandably a struggle to forgive so with rebellious members in the family. Then, difficult though it may be, we should strive to pray for the person who so irritates us. Pray for God to take over. John MacArthur, in one of his sermons on “The Fulfilled Family” spoke on seeing such difficulty as a trial from God to mould us to be more holy. He encouraged his listeners to be more concerned about personal holiness than personal injury. It is striving towards greater personal holiness.

3. Rebuke in Love

As a family exhorting each other to greater personal holiness, we should also lovingly correct each other when there is a need to. Many times, correction is not well put across and thus can be taken into offence. Christ was gentle in His approach when His disciples were wrong. He used God’s Word to correct them.

Ephesians 5:21

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

4. Submission

Many quarrels in the family are a result of no submission. Each member stubbornly refuses to give

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way but insisting on their view. This is the bad case of self-centredness and pride. Christ was in every way equal with God the Father and yet He submitted to the Father's will to be the Sacrificial Lamb to atone for our sins. Imagine what would have been the result if Christ has refused to submit to the Father. We would all be still dead in our sins!

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints

5. Pray

Lastly, pray for one another in the family. Just as parents need to keep their communication line open with their children, we must also do the same with our Heavenly Father. We must always be talking with Him so that we are able to maintain a close relationship with our Father and be sensitive to His will for us. Christ always went off in solitude to pray and communicate with God the Father. It was especially so in John 17 where Christ prayed so earnestly before His arrest.

Dear readers, this is by no means an exhaustive list. It is just five points for us to ponder and work on. This year's theme for Lively Stones is "Building Up the Godly Family". In order to have a godly family, each member must first strive to be godly. We have Christ who has set us the perfect example. So let us humble ourselves and emulate our Perfect Master so that we can build up godly families made up of godly individuals.

Julia Koh
Editorial

PUZZLE TIME!!

Find the Fives

Puzzle 1*

Find all of the squares that have a total of five. Write the letters in those squares in the blanks below to discover how long Joseph and Mary searched for Jesus.

1 + 1	4 + 1	2 + 2	3 + 1	3 + 2
B	T	L	P	H
1 + 5	2 - 1	6 - 1	4 + 2	3 - 2
Z	C	R	U	M
2 + 3	4 + 2	3 + 1	5 + 5	4 + 0
E	R	A	D	S
3 + 1	3 + 3	4 + 0	1 + 4	4 + 3
V	N	F	E	S
3 - 2	7 - 2	4 + 4	3 - 1	1 + 3
W	D	O	G	T
1 + 3	1 + 5	2 - 1	1 + 5	3 + 2
X	B	E	P	A
1 + 0	4 - 0	4 + 1	6 + 1	8 + 1
C	U	Y	A	A
2 - 0	7 + 1	4 + 4	5 + 0	2 + 0
L	H	I	S	K

Announcements

- **TODAY IS THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AGM!** It will be held after 1045 Worship Service with lunch preceding. All staff are strongly encouraged to attend.