

La Familia de Dios Part 2

2 - God's Power and Our New Life

Open by asking: *"How is everyone doing?"*

Introduction: *"Last week we talked a little bit about how God's family compares and contrasts with our experiences in our own families. We wrapped up with the idea that if you belong to God's family, then he is going to give you power to make a real and lasting difference in your family and community. Tonight we'll be talking about where that power comes from and about God's desires for the relationships we have in our families."*

God's Power for Change:

Read Colossians 3:1-4:1. Then read this: *"This chapter is from a letter from St. Paul to early Christians who were learning what the Gospel meant for their everyday lives. We'll be looking at this passage more over the coming weeks."*

1. What is the main point of this passage? What is Paul trying to say?
2. What is the reason or motivation for God's people to try to live like this? [see verse 1..."since we've been raised with Christ"]
3. What does he mean when he talks about being dead to certain ways of living? [The idea is that we are dead to our old ways and have resurrected along with Christ as new people with new hearts and new desires! The world's usual motivation for right action is through guilt and shame, but Christ motivates by truth about a new identity--you are someone different, so don't act like the old dead you!]

"The second half of the chapter starts getting specific: wives and husbands, parents and children, even slaves and masters. Back in that time period, wives were basically the property of their husbands, children were abused, slavery was common. Honestly, that's not so different than today in many communities. But God was (and still is) calling his people to change the way things worked."

Read Matthew 5:21-23. Then read this: *"Jesus taught a lot about how the Family of God is supposed to work, and how it differs from the way the rest of the world works. If this is God's desire for his family, and he wants to bring the reality of his family to the rest of the world, we can gain some insight about how to treat our earthly families now that we belong to Christ, even if they don't know him yet."*

1. What is the main thing this passage is saying? [Notice how he's making a distinction between how things used to work and how they work now.]
2. What's the connection between getting closer to God and making peace with others?
3. Which takes priority: worship or reconciliation? How do you react to that?

Apply it to our Lives: *"Bringing the Family of God to our own families and communities involves our actions and our words: we live our lives in a way that demonstrates the values of God's family, and we take opportunities to talk to people about what God has done in our lives."*

1. What is something that needs to change about your actions toward your earthly family members in order to demonstrate Christ's love to them?
2. Pick someone in your family who needs to hear about what Christ has done in your life. Can we commit as a group to praying that these people are open to hearing about God, and ask God for opportunities to share with them?

Pray Together: *"Let's wrap up our time by praying for these people, and for each other. We need to ask God to help us experience these truths more this week, and give us opportunities to share them with others."*