

FAMILY MERCY

Mercy – Part 7

“Lord, I want to live a blameless life, but how I need your help Lord, especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should.” Psalm 101:2 (TLB)

QUIZ: HOW MERCIFUL AND LOVING ARE YOU WITH YOUR FAMILY?

When my spouse or sibling or another family member....

1. Gets some details wrong while telling a story, do I
 Interrupt them and correct them publicly?
 Say nothing and let it go, knowing I’ve done the same?
2. Keeps making the same mistake over and over, do I
 Become irritated & angry at them?
 Graciously forgive them and pray for them?
3. Is getting more attention than I think they deserve, do I
 Feel resentful & feel the need to bring them down a notch?
 Celebrate with them?
4. Says or does something I don’t understand, do I
 Assume they have the best motivation for doing it?
 Question their motivation or think the worst?
5. Am I more polite with strangers OR my own family?

KEY TRUTH #1: MERCY IS LOVE IN ACTION.

“Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. Love is not boastful or proud. Love is not rude. Love is not self-seeking. Love is not irritable or easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil. Love rejoices with the truth. Love is always supportive. Love always trusts. Love is always hopeful. Love always perseveres and never gives up. Love never fails. It never ends.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV/ESV)

FOUR PRACTICAL WAYS TO SHOW MERCY AT HOME

1. Overlook IRRITATIONS and OFFENSES.

“Love is not irritable or easily angered.” 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

“Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them separates even close friends.” Proverbs 17:9 (TLB)

“It is to your glory to overlook an offense.” Proverbs 19:11b (NIV)

When you get irritated or offended, ask yourself three questions:

1. WHY am I angry?
2. WHAT do I really want out of this?
3. HOW can I get it?

“Be careful that when you get on each other’s nerves you don’t snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out.” 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (MSG)

2. Be KIND when they don’t deserve it but NEED it.

“Love is patient... Love is kind... Love is always supportive.” 1 Corinthians 13:4, 7 (CEV)

“A man’s wisdom gives him patience...” Proverbs 19:11a (NIV, TLB)

“Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help.” Proverbs 3:27 (NCV)

“Kindness makes a man attractive.” Proverbs 19:22 (TLB)

“Don’t be hateful to people, just because they are hateful to you. Rather, be good to each other and to everyone else.” 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (CEV)

3. Let go of PAST hurts.

“Love keeps no record of wrongs.” 1 Corinthians 13:5b (NIV)

KEY TRUTH #2: Don’t repeat it. **DELETE** it!

*“Love is not rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges.”
1 Corinthians 13:5 (LB)*

4. BELIEVE that God is working in the lives of others.

*“Love always trusts, love is always hopeful, and love always perseveres through whatever comes.”
1 Corinthians 13:7b (NIV)*

*“Lord, hear my prayer for mercy when I call to you for help, when I lift my hands toward your most holy place.”
Psalm 28:2 (GW)*

“I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day.” Lamentations 3:20-23 (TLB/Various)