

FAMILY PLANNING Part 1: Crossroads

Objective: To us to aim for God's ideal in all of their relationships while offering grace to others when they fall short.

Read together:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Colossians 3:12-21

- What comes to mind when you think of the ideal marriage? What about your ideals in parenting?
- Why do you think we get so frustrated, hurt and angry when our ideals collide with the ideals of others?
- In your relationships, what has been your typical reaction when your ideals have crashed in to reality?
- In Colossians 3, the Apostle Paul gives us God's ideal for our relationships. Take another look at that passage. How attainable do you think that ideal is? Why do you think that?
- How good are you at offering and receiving both truth and grace?
- The pastor said that we find common ground in our relationships when we aim for God's ideals. How does aiming for God's ideal help us find common ground?
- How do you think aiming for God's ideal, but offering grace and truth would change the way you handle conflict in your relationships?

Final Thought: This week, focus on aiming for God's ideals in your relationships and be prepared to offer both grace and truth to others when those ideals are not met.



FAMILY

