

1. Initiate the hard conversation.

Love is not blind; that is the last thing that it is.

Love is bound; and the more it is bound the less it is blind.

-G. K. Chesterton

Step 1: If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

Step 2: But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

Step 3: If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church.

Step 4: And if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector (Matthew 18:15-17).

Accountability to one another is the only way to safeguard against poor judgment, unconscious motivations, and self-deception.

-Archibald Hart

2. Support each other through difficult times.

In the midst of sorrow, it can feel like you are going to drown. You come up for air for a split second only for another wave of sadness to crash upon you. As time goes on, you may find yourself floating atop some of the waves, but there are still others that curl over your head when you least expect it. No one can tell you how long you'll stay exhausted and disoriented in the rough waters of suffering.

-Brittany Allen

A new command I give you: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another (John 13:34).

You cannot help with a burden unless you come very close to the burdened person standing virtually in their shoes and putting your own strength under the burden so its weight is distributed on both of you, lightening the load of the other. So, in the same way, a Christian must listen and understand, and physically, emotionally, spiritually, take up some of the burden with the other person.

-Tim Keller

3. Share with those who feed us spiritually.

Christian teaching is not just one more service to be paid for, but a rich fellowship and mutual sharing of the gifts of God.

-Tim Keller

We volunteer less. We entertain guests at our homes less often. ... And we have fewer and fewer close friends with whom we'd share the intimate details of our lives. We are denying our social nature, and paying a price for it. Over the same period of time that social isolation has increased, our levels of happiness have gone down, while rates of suicide and depression have multiplied.

-Emily Smith

- Make the family a priority.
- Accept family responsibilities.
- Make the head of the family your first priority.