

Home Field Advantage

Ephesians 6:1-2 (NLT)

Children, **obey your parents** because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. **“Honor your father and mother.”**

This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, **“things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”**

People who have been hurt tell themselves lies in order to survive

“I don’t care”

I just don’t care... anymore.

We Have to Remember:

- Remember who you are: sons and daughters of God

Ephesians 4:30 (NLT)

And **do not bring sorrow** to God’s Holy Spirit **by the way you live**. Remember, he has identified you as **his own**, guaranteeing that **you will be saved** on the day of redemption.

We Have to Remember:

- Remember who you are: SONS and DAUGHTERS of God
- Remember God’s promise: SALVATION.

Ephesians 4:31 (NLT)

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be **kind** to each other, **tenderhearted, forgiving** one another, just as **God through Christ has forgiven you**.

We were created to care.

Caring is a losing battle.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NLT)

Either way, **Christ’s love controls us**. Since we believe that **Christ died for all**, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He

died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will **no longer live for themselves**. Instead, they will **live for Christ**, who died and was raised for them.

So we have **stopped evaluating others** from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who **belongs to Christ** has become **a new person**. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

And all of this is a **gift from God**, who **brought us back** to himself **through Christ**. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, **no longer counting people's sins against them**. And he gave us this wonderful **message of reconciliation**. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the **offering for our sin**, so that we could be **made right with God** through Christ.

caring is a losing battle... that is worth fighting.

Reconciliation = Partnership (bonding) of UNEQUAL parts.

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Do for THEM what God (your Heavenly Father) has done for you.

Talk it Over

1. Share a brief description of your "FAMILY" - who and where are you from? What's one of the quirkiest things about your family?
2. Do you think obedience and honor are the same? Why/Why not?

3. Read **2 Corinthians 5:14-21** together - Share what stands out to you in the text - what do you think God is trying to point out in our lives?
4. How do you think God's promise of salvation and our call to care work together in our lives for God's glory?
5. After this message and study, what do you feel like God is challenging you to do this week?

Take a Deeper Look

This is a new section dedicated to those who want to explore and study the Bible more deeply.

Set aside some time with your Bible and a notebook and no distractions (you can use digital devices too - just put em in airplane mode for 30 minutes).

Read - Think - Pray - write down your thoughts... then do something -
GO BE THE CHURCH!

- Read Exodus 20:1-21 (the ten commandments) - Take some time to consider each of the commands and think through how the command of Christ (John 15:17) fulfills and reinforces each of these.
- Read 2 Corinthians 5 - Take note and underline the parts that catch your thoughts and attention. What do you think God wants from you life? What does He want from His church?