

Leaning In to God's Family

Message Handout

Colossians 3:12–16 (NLT) - 12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. 16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

5 Angles of Unity

1. ATTITUDE of Unity (5 Attitudes)

1. **Mercy** "I feel your pain"
2. **Kindness** "You get my smile"
3. **Humility**
 1. **Pride** - I am right, I am better, I am smarter, I am sufficient
 2. **Self-seeking** - I want for myself
 3. **Philippians 2:3–5 (NLT)** — 3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. 5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.
4. **Gentleness** "I'm not ready for a fight, you can't get me to fight"
5. **Patience** "I'm not giving up over something little, I'm here"

2. ACTION of Unity (2 actions)

1. "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others..."
2. **Extend grace** to one another's faults.
 1. **Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)** — 2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

3. **Forgiveness** (Forgive ANYONE who offends you)

3. AFFECTION of Unity

1. "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony..."

2. Agape is NOT self-interested

3. We are FAMILY

1. **Matthew 12:46–50 (NLT)** — 46 As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. 47 Someone told Jesus, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak to you." 48 Jesus asked, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" 49 Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. 50 **Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!**"