

KEYS TO FAMILY UNITY



A family of four (mother, father, young girl, and young boy) stands on a large, dark wooden stump. The word "CHRIST" is carved in large, bold, capital letters into the front of the stump. The background is a dark, textured blue-grey wall with some faint, abstract shapes.

CHRIST

Keeping unity in the family demands an effort from every family member.

A family will be strongly united if each person has the next keys:

Jesus

Love

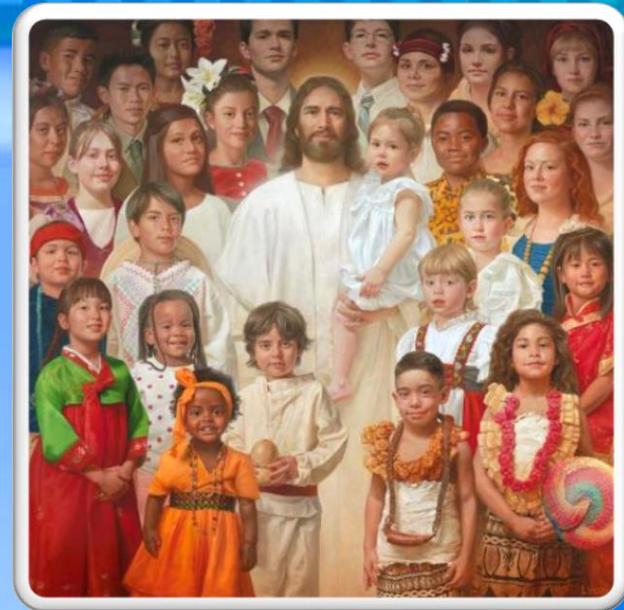
Humbleness

Submission

Commitment

JESUS

**"There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free,
there is neither male nor female;
for you are all one in Christ
Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)**



**Living in Christ brings practical
changes to our lives (Romans 6:22; 2
Corinthians 5:17).**

**The cross of Christ removes all the
barriers that separate people.**

**The closer to Jesus we live, the closer we
are to one another.**

Of course this is also true within family.

**When Jesus is the center of every family
member's heart, there's unity between
husband and wife, between parents and
children, between brothers and sisters...**



LOVE

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”
(1 John 4:7)



The Greek Word *ágape* is used in the New Testament for the love of God and the love we should show to one another.

This kind of love goes beyond physical or filial love. It’s a gift from the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

Compare your character to the definition of *ágape* love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What changes should you make in your life?



Write down your name in the blanks next to the sentences that are true in your case today:

- _____ • it suffers long and is kind
- _____ • it does not envy
- _____ • it does not parade itself
- _____ • it is not puffed up
- _____ • it does not behave rudely
- _____ • it does not seek its own
- _____ • it is not provoked
- _____ • it thinks no evil
- _____ • it does not rejoice in iniquity
- _____ • it rejoices in the truth
- _____ • it bears all things
- _____ • it believes all things
- _____ • it hopes all things
- _____ • it endures all things

HUMBLeness

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” (Philippians 2:3)



Because of sin, selfishness has become an inherent part of every human being.



“If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties.”

(Ellen G. White, Early Writings, p. 119)

Paul encouraged us to imitate the humble example of Christ (v. 4-8).

We can achieve true humbleness only if we kneel at the foot of the Cross.

SUBMISSION

“submitting to one another in the fear of God.” (Ephesians 5:21)



Those who love God are called to submit to one another. Paul set three examples of submission:

Wives submitted to their husbands

- Ephesians 5:22

Children submitted to their parents

- Ephesians 6:1

Slaves submitted to their masters

- Ephesians 6:5

Those things were already expected in that time's society. So, why is Paul's advice novel? How can we adapt it to today's society?

Firstly, submission in Christ is reciprocal. Secondly, there are conditions in the previous submission examples:

Husbands should act like Christ does

- Ephesians 5:25-33

Parents shouldn't irritate their children

- Ephesians 6:4

Masters shouldn't threaten

- Ephesians 6:9



COMMITMENT

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
(Genesis 2:24)

Every family began with commitment.

This commitment extends to the whole family:



**Marital
commitment**



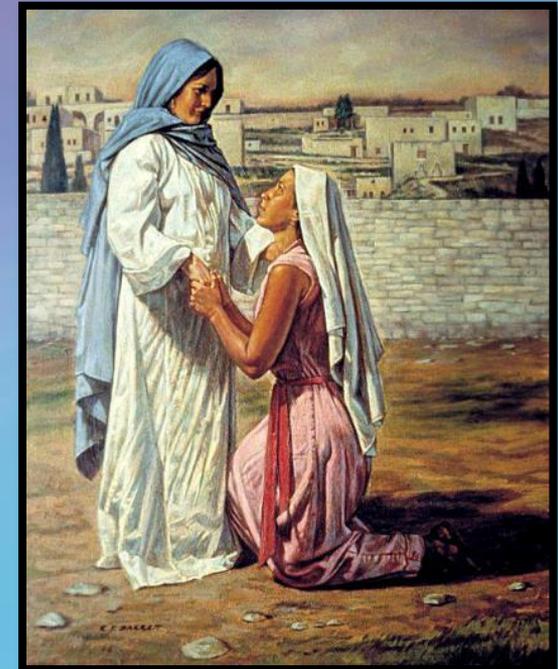
**Commitment
between parents
and children**



**Commitment
between brothers
and sisters**

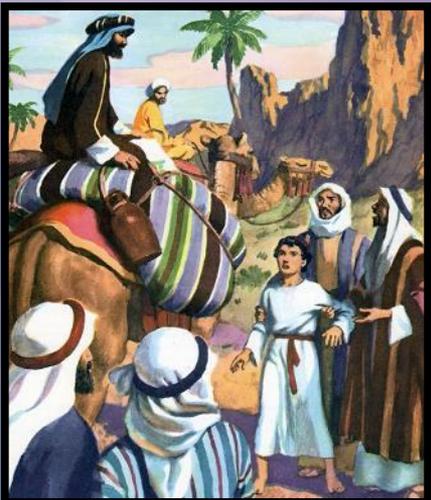


**Commitment
between other
relatives**



The lack of commitment is a cause of problems and divisions (check the story of Joseph and his brothers).

A strong commitment creates stable and long-lasting family bonds (check the story of Naomi and Ruth).



“The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with Christ.”

E.G.W. (The Adventist Home, cp. 27, p. 179)