

**How Idolatry of Emotions is Manifested:** 1) An assumption that your feelings are always right. 2) Attempt to solve all hurt feelings, especially in small children. 3) Use of vindictive speech in response to hurt feelings, the Christian does not repay evil for evil, Rom. 12:17, 19. 4) Feel justified to openly express whatever I am feeling instead of preferring others more important than yourself (Phil. 2:3).

**6 Building Blocks of a Christian Family:**

1. **Submission:** Submission to God and the authorities He established is required of believers, 1 Cor. 11:3 (Christ to God, man to Christ), Eph. 5:22-24 (wives to husbands), Eph. 6:1 (children to parents). Eph. 6:5-8 (slaves to masters).
  - a. **Characteristics of Submission:** 1) worshipful motivation: V5, obedient and with respect. With “fear and trembling” as to the Lord. 2) heart integrity: V5, real and sincere submission. 3) A heavenly view: V5, “as to Christ” and God Himself. 4) A lowly position: V6, “not by way of eyeservice,” but to please God, not man, as a slave of Christ.
2. **Forgiveness:** Relational Forgiveness: restoring the relationship back to where it was, Luke 17:3. Spiritual Forgiveness: letting go of bitterness against another. Not thinking they are unworthy of salvation. Trust may take significant time to restore the relationship (Prov. 18:19). But we are to forgive in the same manner and measure that God in Christ forgave us, Eph. 4:31-32.
  - a. Penance is a made-up form of forgiveness that doesn’t deal with the underlying sin against another. It doesn’t change the fact that the sin that caused the penance has been addressed.
  - b. Why is forgiveness important? Because in a family every member will sin against the other and so forgiveness allows the family to show love and care for each other.
3. **Softness:** Eph. 4:32 uses the word “tender-hearted.” It means tender-bowelled. This is to have a soft gut for someone. This is not keeping a list of wrongs, being kind and gracious and willing to forgive.
4. **Holiness:** It is a position of salvation firstly. Secondly, it is a distinct characteristic of a believer that they live a holy life, 1 Pet. 1:14-16.
  - a. Is what someone is doing a mistake than is a normal part of life, a preference of mine, or a sinful action?
5. **Respect in How You Speak and How You Listen: How you speak:** a) honest: Eph. 4:29, doesn’t cause rot or is “unwholesome.” Prov. 10:10-11. b) careful speech: Ps. 141:3, “set a guard, O Yahweh, over my mouth.” Words of choice silver, Prov. 10:20. What is acceptable, Prov. 10:31-32, Eccl. 10:12, Prov. 13:3. c) controlled speech: Prov. 10:19, with many words, transgression abounds. Prov. 12:18, not speaking rashly, but bringing healing. Answering gently, Prov. 15:1. c) humble speech: not coming across arrogantly, Prov. 14:3. Not a know-it-all, but wise, Prov. 15:2. Words that bring life, Prov. 15:4. Let others praise you, Prov. 27:1-2. e) helpful speech: Prov. 16:21, words that cause others to learn. Pleasant words, Prov. 16:24. f) well-timed: Prov. 25:11, in right circumstance.” He keeps his mouth, Prov. 21:23. Prov. 27:14, done at the right time. g) non-destructive speech: Prov. 18:21, death and life are in the power of the tongue. A fool’s mouth is his ruin, Prov. 18:7. We are to build our children up and encourage them, Eph. 6:4.
  - a. **How you listen:** others could disagree with you and not be in sin. a) willingly listen: Prov. 10:8, willing to learn. Prov. 25:12, able to receive correction and reproof. b) disciplined listening: Prov. 15:28, ponder how to answer after hearing. Col 4:6, respond with grace to the hearer. c) actual listening: don’t interrupt, Prov. 15:23. Prov. 17:27, hold back your words. Prov. 18:13, hear before responding.
6. **Humility:** Phil. 2:1-4, this passage is given for the church and applicable to the Christian family. 1) Do nothing from selfish ambition or vain glory. 2) Humbly regard others as more important than yourself. 3) Don’t seek your own glory and interests. 4) Look to use your effort and talents to benefit others.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

Philippians 2:5-11 gives us the greatest example of humility in Christ Jesus. How have you grown in the knowledge of Christ and have seen your worship to God become deeper and richer as you come to know what He gave to save us? Looking at Phil. 2:12, why is there fear and trembling as we work out our salvation? There is a day coming when we stand before Christ and give an account of our lives. What will be laid bare? What will be judged? Why is God working in us to will and do of His good pleasure? Why is God helping us prepare for that day?

How would we rate our ability to listen and speak in a godly manner to those we meet? Do we fully listen to others before responding? How can we grow in humility so that we can treat others kindly, in addition, we would be more effective at imparting grace and encouragement to them? How will your speech be judged on that day before the Lord?

As we mature in Christ, we come to greater understanding of how God orchestrates everything in life. He uses our jobs, our bosses, our spouses, our children, leaders in the church, friends, family, etc. to mold us and make us into the likeness of His Son. He also uses sickness and circumstance to fashion us into the likeness of His Son. Share some experiences of how God has used our failures to help us see His truth more clearly. How has God used our talents and skills to encourage others and help us understand how blessed we are to be used by the Lord?

Forgiveness benefits the receiver and the giver. Why is repenting of and releasing of bitterness against others a requirement for the believer? What is the basis for us to be able to forgive others? What are some ways that we can build trust again with others? How can we build stronger and stronger relationships in our church? What can be the foundation of our friendship? How can serving others allow us to build those relationships?