



NORTHVIEW STUDENTS

Parent Resources

Family Unity

If you are reading this, then you have at least one or more teenagers in your home, likely with younger children to raise as well. Life can be crazy with all of this! With as hectic as our lives as American families can be, it may be hard to maintain family unity. At one point or another, every family that intends on raising their children in the faith has established an ideology for family unity. However, somewhere along the way, that unity may or may not have gotten lost.

When I was growing up, my family lost sight of that unity far too often. My parents were not perfect, and I was far from the perfect child myself (making it far more difficult on them)! Often times, the craziness of life and lack of unity in our house drove wedges in a lot of relationships, resulting in grudges that would go on for weeks. Looking back on this time, I can't help but notice that I never really did anything to be a promoter of unity in my house.

Colossians 3:12-14 says this: Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each others faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, **which binds us all together in perfect harmony.**

There is a finite amount of time that parents have their child in the house. Crazy schedules and endless activities will always be a given, making that time go by faster. When there is time to slow down, with all the family together, around the table, home at night, is there unity in your household? Are we clothing ourselves in tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience? Remember, this is about striving to the life that God has called us to! None of us are perfect, and his grace is sufficient for us when we make mistakes. Use the questions below to discuss with your teenager(s) about unity in the household.

- Which attribute that Paul lists in Colossians do you find easiest to “clothe yourself” with? Which attribute is the most challenging?
- Do you feel like your family is unified in the love of Christ? If yes, what can you do as a family to maintain that unity? If not, how can unity be established in your household?