

Godly relationships: family

Colossians 3:12-25

早安你好
祝福你
大年三十
除夕团圆

SKANDA

*May your
Reunion Dinner
Celebration with
Your Loved ones
Be Merry and
filled with
Togetherness,
Warmth &
Happiness.*



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR EVE!

What is a mature Christian life?

- Set your hearts and minds on things above, where Christ is
- Put to death... whatever belongs to the earthly nature

Stop practicing:

- Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed
- anger /rage, malice and wrong speech like slander, filthy language and lies

Christian relationships: Church and family

- ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
- ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
- ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Kingdom citizens

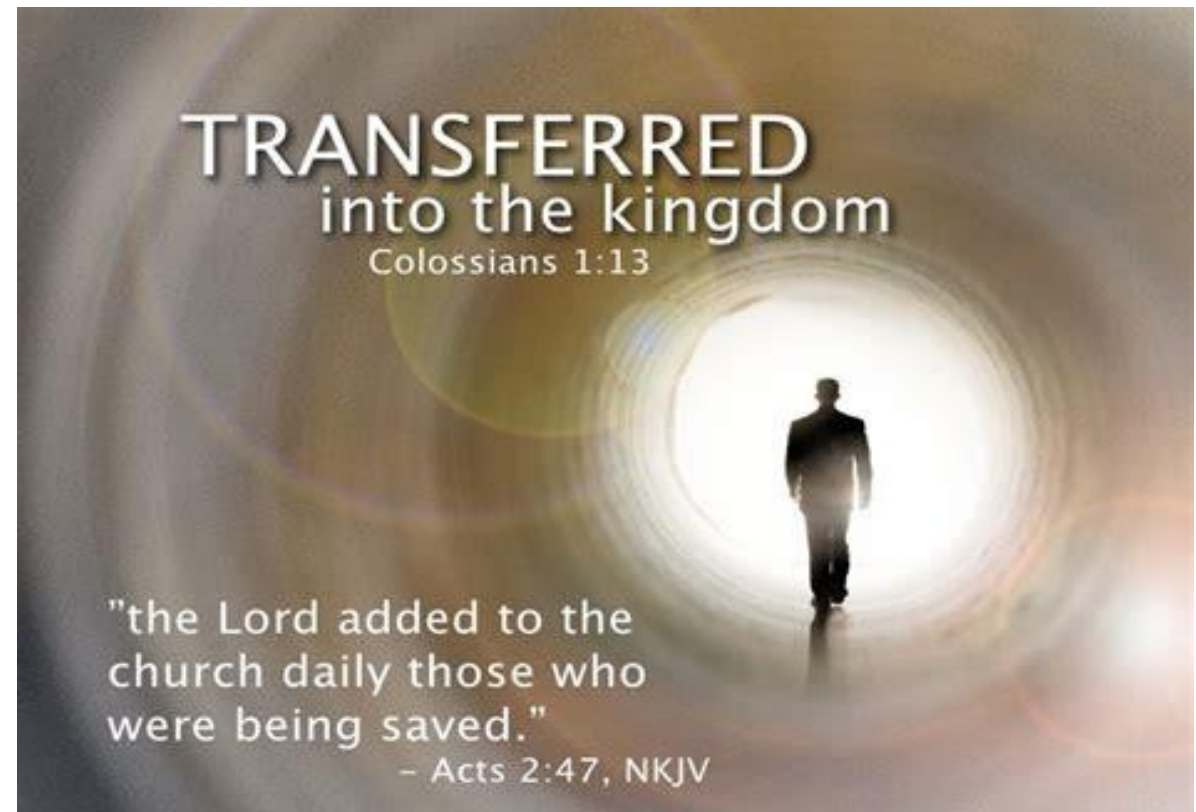
- As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved (3:12),

Call to:

have love and peace

show godly virtues

- Every word or deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord (3:17).




Kingdom virtues

Virtue

- a behavior that shows high moral standards: doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong
- compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- bear with each other.....
- forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.

Put on love and peace:

- ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
- ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.
- Love sums up and leads the virtues.
- Peace of Christ is why we can forgive others



**And I pray
that you, being rooted
and established in love,
may have power ... to
grasp how wide and
long and high and deep
is the love of Christ**

EPHESIANS 3:17-18 NIV

- Rooted in the love of Christ
- Enable us to show compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience

Love and compassion of Jesus (Luke 7)

- ¹¹ Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ **When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her** and he said, “Don’t cry.”





- Love / compassion led to kindness to the widow
- Her only son was from raised from the dead

Peace of Christ

*Therefore...
since we have
Been justified by*

FAITH

we have

PEACE WITH GOD

through our Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 5:1

When we are wronged,

- we can forgive others because we have been forgiven
- We bear no resentment or bitterness in our hearts because we have this peace.

AND THE
PEACE
OF GOD,
WHICH TRANSCENDS
ALL UNDERSTANDING,
WILL GUARD YOUR
HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS
IN CHRIST JESUS

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

- No desire for revenge or retaliation
- No need to be anxious
(Philippians 4:7)

Mindset of Christ (Philippians 2):

- ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.
- ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus

- Don't act out of selfishness or pride

In humility:

- value others above yourselves
- look to the interest of others

- if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you.....Agree with each other, love each other.....Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top.

- Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. (Message)

Colossians 3:18-21: Family Relationships

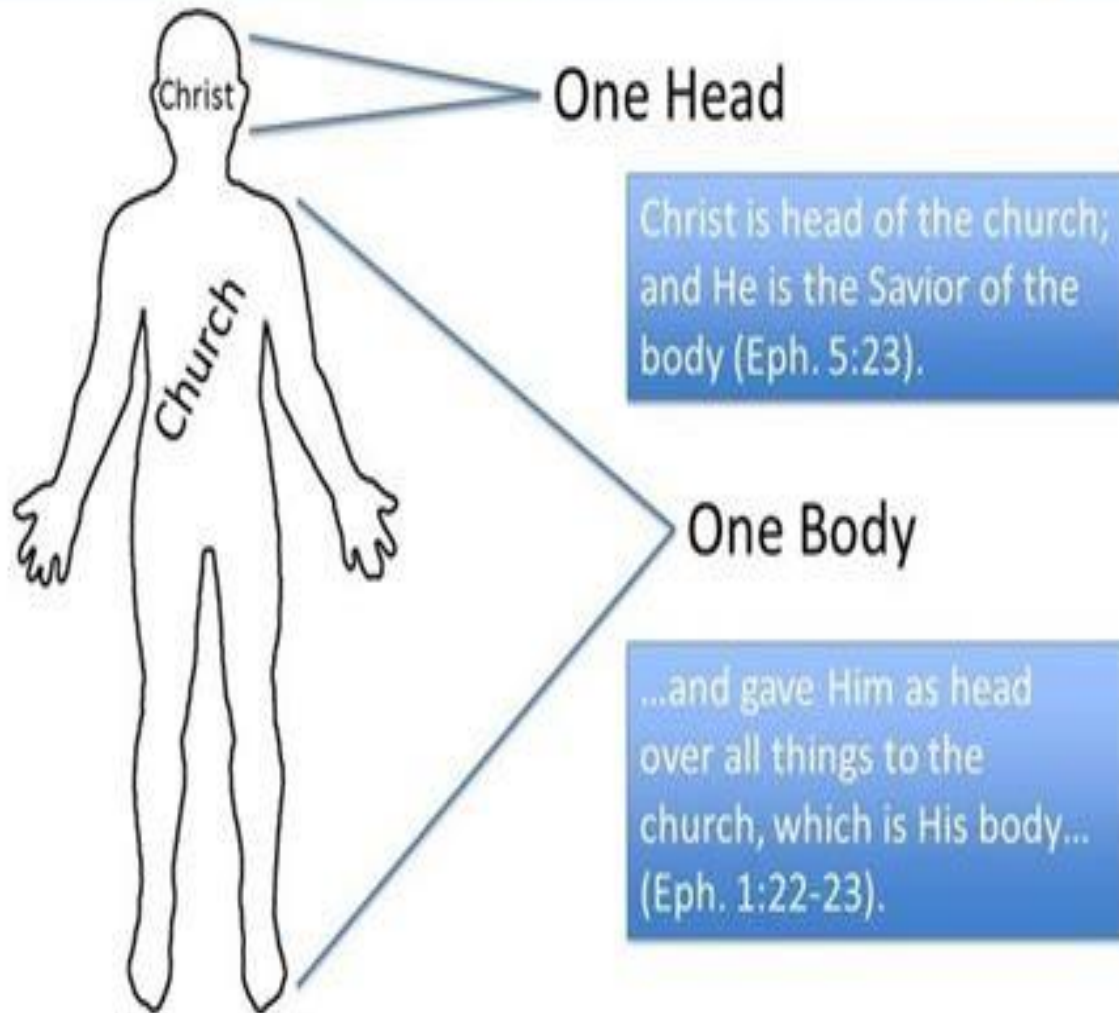
- ¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is **fitting in the Lord**.
- ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and **do not be harsh** with them.
- ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this **pleases the Lord**.
- ²¹ Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will **become discouraged**.

Husbands....wives

- Love your wives and do not be harsh with them. (Colossians 3:19).
- Love as Christ love the church and gave Himself up for her... sacrificially (Ephesians 5:25)
- Be considerate.... joint heirs in Christ (1 Peter 3:5-7)



Bible Picture of Christ's Body



- Love sacrificially as Christ love the Church:
- value his wife above himself
- consider her needs before his own.

Do not be harsh but be considerate

- Show them love
- Treat with compassion, humility, kindness, gentleness and patience
- Bear with them....
- Forgive....when they fail to submit

1 Peter 3:7

- ⁷ Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

- Warning....
- Prayers not answered if fail to be considerate

Wives.....husbands

Submit yourselves to your husbands:

- as is fitting in the Lord.
(Colossians 3:18)
- as you do to the Lord
(Ephesians 5:22-24)

Submission of Christ

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:6-8

- Equal with God
- No compulsion, only joy
- Do His Father's will

Submission:

- put yourself under someone, for a good and proper purpose.

Christian submission:

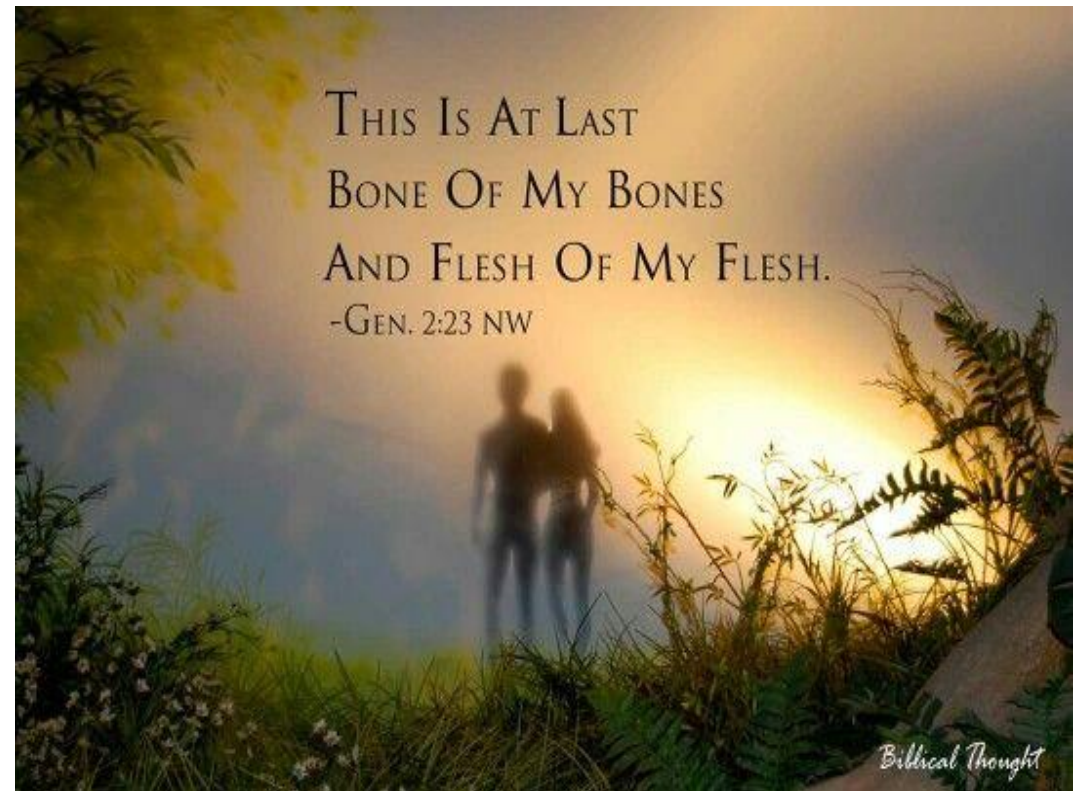
- obedient to His will.
- totally voluntary.
- equality not in question.
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)
- **Mutual submission**

Fitting in the Lord...

- Equal image of God (Genesis 1:26-28)
- helper suitable for man (Genesis 2:18)

Helper: **an ally beside**
not servant

Suitable:
Complementary



"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord..."

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church
and gave himself up for her..." -Eph 5:22,25

DOES NOT MEAN THIS:



- Not inferior
- Not a servant

Husband.....wife: complementary roles

- Mutual love and submission as 'joint heirs'
- Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience....key virtues for marriage.
- Bear with each other and forgive each other....harmonious marriage

Husband.....wife: complementary roles

- Mutual love and submission as 'joint heirs'
- Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience....key virtues for marriage.
- Bear with each other and forgive each other....harmonious marriage
- Discuss and make joint decisions
- Joint household responsibilities



- HLCE Marriage Course Feb 19 to April 2, 2023
- ‘Navigating life together’...many challenges in family

Parent / child

- Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
- Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged (Colossians 3:20-21)
- train and instruct them in the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

Parent / child issues

- Unreasonable parenting - embitter or exasperate children
- Failure (fathers) – train and instruct spiritual principles
- Children lack obedience and honor of parents



Children are
'joint heirs'



Parenting

Deuteronomy 6:20-25

When your children ask you in time to come, “What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord our God has commanded you?” then you shall say to your children, “We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

Stewardship:

- Train them in Word
- Instruct...share our walk in the Lord

Prayer is key:

- Devote yourselves to prayer, be watchful and thankful (4:2)
- Key to good parenting is not only what you do, which is important, but fervent prayers for your children....know God
- Parents, don't be discouraged if all your efforts seem not to bear fruit.....
- God is good and will hear your cries to Him... work out for good Romans 8:28



Children,

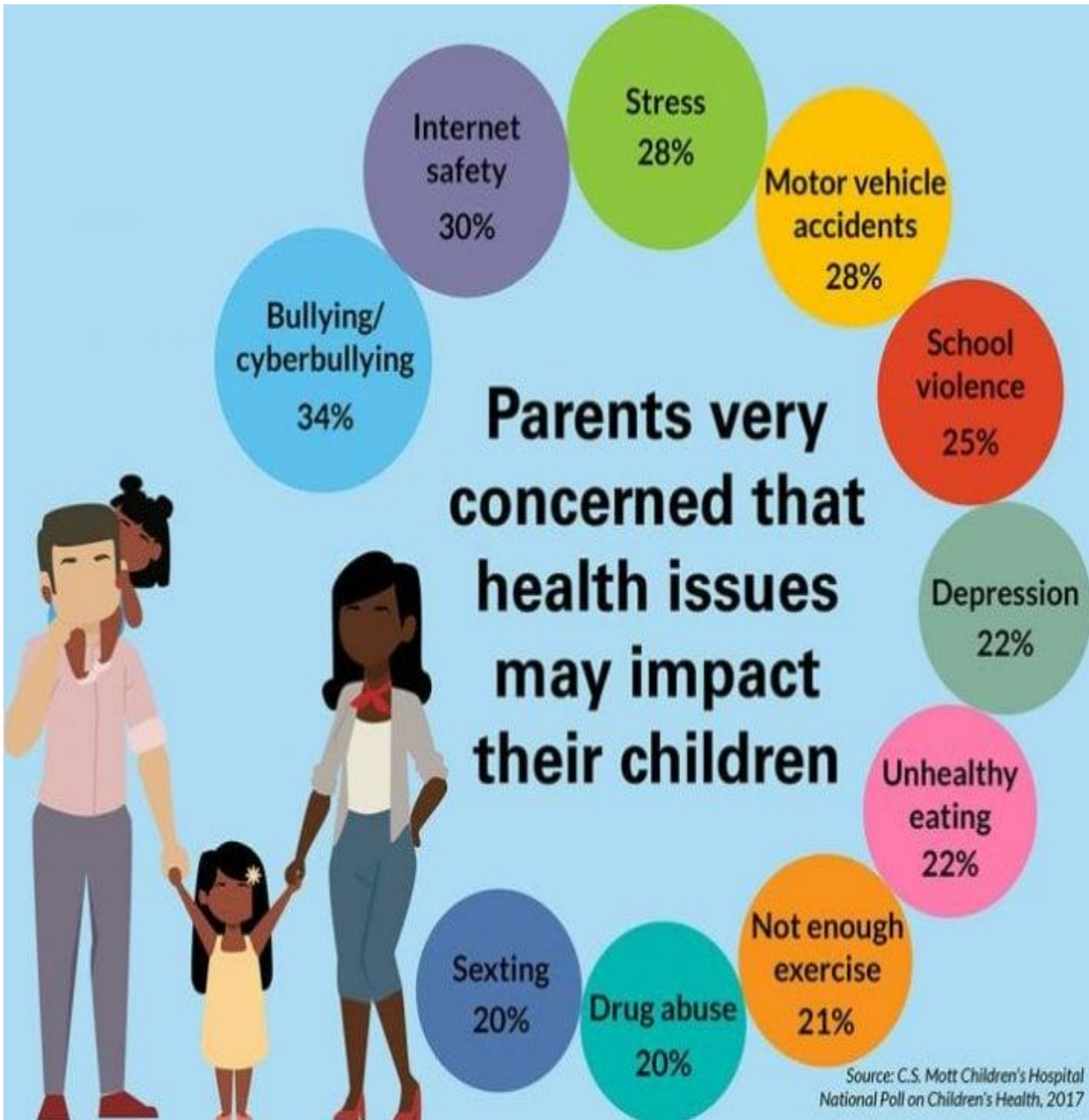
obey your parents in the Lord,
because this is right.

Honor your father and mother which is
the first commandment with a promise -
that it may go well with you and that
you may have a long life.

~Ephesians 6:1-3

HAPPY HEART DAILY INSPIRATION

- Obey parents...it pleases the Lord
- God's promise hold true even in difficult and broken homes.



- Most parents are trying their best to be good parents, but they have their weakness and failures...try to understand.
- Even if you feel hurt and let down, you must show them love and forgive them.

Children, please

- Bear with parent's failure.
 - Forgive them for any grievance.
-
- Show love, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience....with parents
 - Forgive parents....because it pleases the Lord

Summary

Mindset of Christ:

- value others above yourselves
- look to the interest of others
- Bear with and forgive one another
- Husband and wives: love and mutual submission as joint heirs in Christ
- Parents...train and instruct in the Word...children are joint heirs.
- Children obey parents...it pleases the Lord

Pastor Claude T S O'keeffe



- Departed on 25th January 2023
- Man with godly virtues...love, kindness, gentleness and patience
- Abundance of joy.