

Family Support

Families Support One Another:

- engaged and interested in the efforts of each other
- invested and participating in the outcome

When We Are Self Focused:

- all about what it does for me
 - how it affects others does not matter
 - reputation is irrelevant

For Family to Work – Need One Another

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“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Col. 4:2-6

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1. Depending on Your Prayers

- note the absence of a political justice campaign
- Devote yourselves to prayer – take it to the top

a) counting on you to be faithful

- relationship and communication with God essential
- make time, be disciplined, attend to prayer

b) counting on you to be watchful

- literally awake or alert – seeing the situation

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c) counting on you to be thankful

- seeing the provision of God for your lives
- seeing the gifts of God for investment

d) counting on you to be purposeful

- praying for specific things
- note – not asking for freedom, release from prison
- asking for advance of the gospel – clear presentation
- asking for opportunity and words to proclaim

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2. Depending on Your Actions

a) counting on you to walk wisely

- wisdom – the use of knowledge to reach worthy goals. You can know many things and be unwise!
- do not do anything that would make sharing Christ difficult or impossible
- make the most of every opportunity – see where God is working – get involved. Wisdom involves discernment and participation

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b) Counting on You to Speak the Truth in Love

- conversation full of grace – how matters
- mercy – not receiving what I deserve, grace – receiving what I do not deserve.
- our speech reveals our hearts – James
- truth can be used as a weapon or a light
- let your speech reveal the value God sees in others, not the value they have earned or deserve!

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c) Counting on You to Season With Salt

- make your lives seasoned, appetizing to others
- preserve truth – season it against decay

d) Counting on You to Answer Personally

- assumed relationship with others
- assumed understanding of Gods saving grace
- assumed time invested in discussing deep issues
- assumed willingness to speak the truth

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So What

Called the Family of God – Known by the Name

We are Expected to Participate – plan is to use us

What Kind of Family Do We Need to Be?

1. Support one Another in Prayer

- faithful, watchful, thankful and purposeful

2. Support one Another in Participation

-walk wisely, speak the truth in love, season with salt and answer personally