

## CHARACTER TRAITS OF THE FAMILY OF GOD

### Colossians 3:12-14

In the New Testament, love is more of a verb than a noun. It has more to do with acting than with feeling. The call to love is not so much a call to a certain state of feeling as it is to a quality of action.

RC Sproul

#### 1. Colossians 3:12a - **Who are we in Christ?**

- We are chosen

- We are changed

- We are cherished

## 2. Colossians 3:12b-13 - **What are we called to do?**

- To think rightly about ourselves
- To deal rightly with the sins of others
- To remember how God deals with us

## 3. Colossians 3:14 - **What is our highest priority?**

- The definition of love
- The perfection of love
- The result of love

## I. Getting to Know You

1. Who is your favorite author?

## II. Into the Bible

2. After the list of “don’ts” in Colossians 3:5-10, Paul takes time to describe the character of a believer in Jesus Christ before he begins the list of “dos”. When Jesus taught about how to live in his kingdom, he also began with our character. Read Matthew 5:1-12. How do these characteristics line up with what Paul asks of the Colossian believers in Colossians 3:12-14?

3. Take a good look at the qualities Peter says that believers should cultivate in 2 Peter 1:5-9. Discuss with your group whether these form a progression that we should work on developing or whether they all should come to us at once.

### **III. Application**

4. Love is consistently held up as the most important characteristic for the Christian life. Read 1 John 3:16-18. Discuss what John says that love is. Talk with your group about how you can show love in your daily life.

5. The family question below isn't just for children. Share practical things with your group that you can do to clothe yourself with those virtues.

### **IV. For Families**

6. Talk with your children about what it means to put on compassion, kindness and the other virtues in Colossians 3:12-14, the way you put on your clothing. Have them suggest some practical things you and your children can do that will show you have put these virtues on.