

A PEOPLE
WHO...



...ARE FAMILY

11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Elim Aberystwyth

Love God Love People Caru Duw Caru Pobl

- **Our Values**

(deeply ingrained/aspirational principles)

- **A people who...**

- ... are Christ-centred

- ... are Bible-shaped

- ... are Family

- ... are Vibrant

- ... Demonstrate Integrity

- ... Extend Grace

- ... Connect



MORE
TEA
VICAR

More Tea Vicar...

- Upon moving here in 2012, I met with anyone who wanted to meet with me and asked them...
 - What do you love about Elim Aberystwyth?
 - What would you like to change about Elim Aberystwyth?
 - What are your personal hopes and goals within the life of Elim Aberystwyth?

**WHAT
DOES
FAMILY
MEAN TO
YOU?**

10 Therefore, as we
have opportunity,
let us do good to
all people,
especially to those
who belong to the
family of believers.

GALATIANS 6

οἰκεῖος

Transliteration:
oikeios

Usage: of one's
family, domestic,
intimate.

STRONG'S CONCORDANCE

Family Matters

- The NIV Bible translates *oikeios* here as the 'family of believers'
- The same word is translated in Ephesians 2 as 'of the household' in explaining to the Gentiles their place in the family of God's people
- What is the 'Therefore' there for?

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction;

GALATIANS 6

whoever sows to
please the Spirit,
from the Spirit will
reap eternal life.

9 Let us not
become weary in
doing good, for at
the proper time
we will reap a
harvest if we do
not give up.

GALATIANS 6

10 Therefore, as we
have opportunity,
let us do good to
all people,
especially to those
who belong to the
family of believers.

GALATIANS 6

Family Matters

- The word oikeios is derived from 'oikos'
- Oikos is used throughout the New Testament to mean physical dwellings OR descriptively in terms such as house of Israel, house of God, house of prayer and so on...
- It is also the origin of the word 'ecosystem'

οἶκος

oikos

Usage: (a) a house, the material building, (b) a household, family, lineage, nation.

STRONG'S CONCORDANCE

26 So in Christ
Jesus you are all
children of God
through faith,
27 for all of you
who were
baptized into
Christ have
clothed yourselves
with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Family Matters

- Through Christ Jesus we are all untied as a 'family' of God
- Family is at the heart of God's design for us and we desire to grow in being a healthy family!
- Another word used throughout the New Testament is traditionally translated 'Brethren'

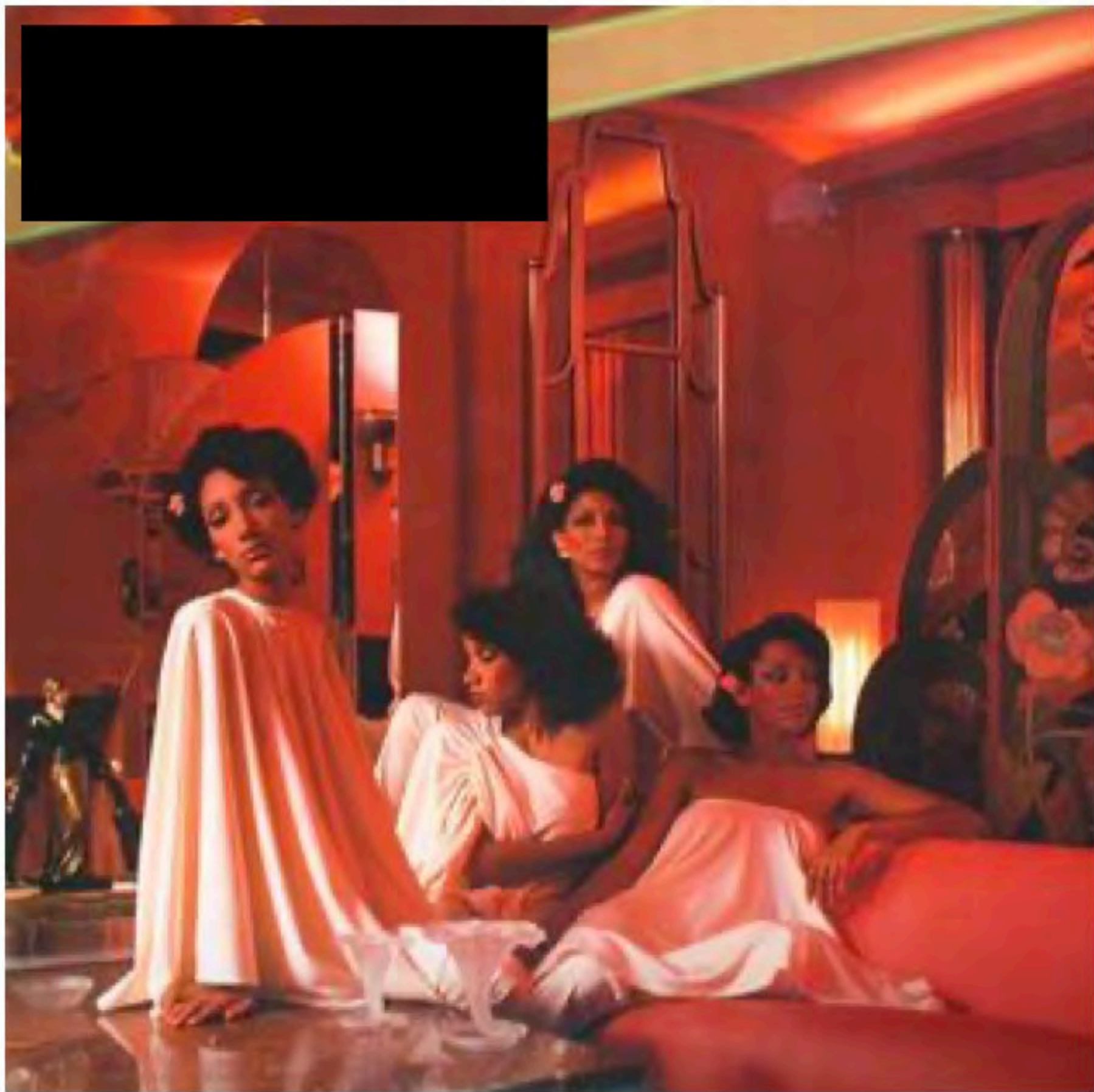
ἀδελφός

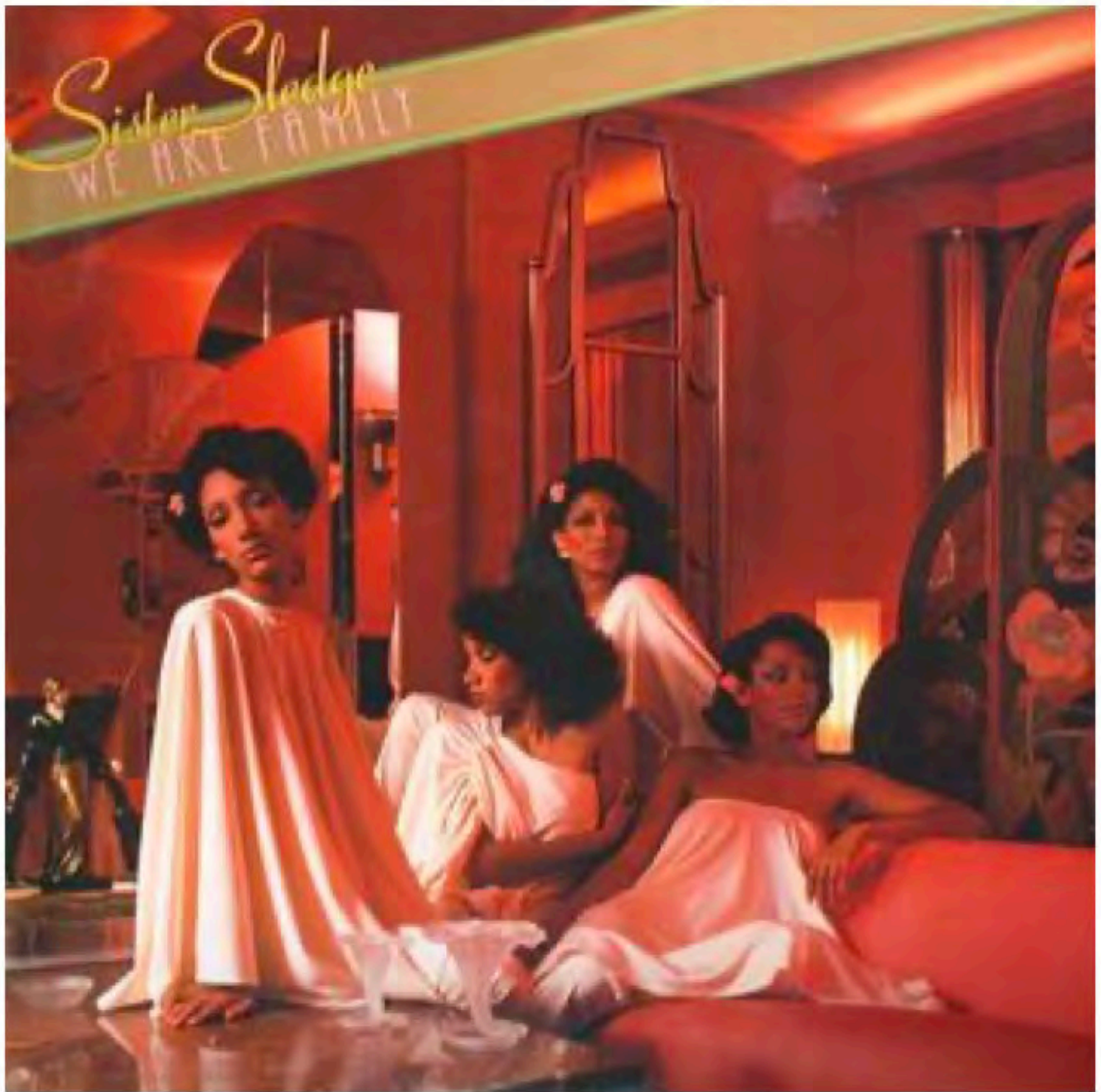
adelphos

Usage: a brother, member of the same religious community, especially a fellow-Christian.

Family Matters

- **New Testament letters are usually addressed in this way to the family of believers in a location**
- **This is an inclusive term**
 - **Some modern translations say 'brothers and sisters'**
- **Paul wants us to celebrate and understand what it means to be accepted together as the family of God in Christ**





https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Are_Family_%28album%29

**WE ASPIRE TO
BE A HEALTHY
CHURCH
FAMILY AND
FULFIL OUR
ROLE AS PART
OF WIDER
FAMILY OF
GOD'S PEOPLE
ACROSS THE
WORLD!**

We Are Family

- Descriptions of The Church in the New Testament include being a family, a building (Ephesians 2), and a body (1 Corinthians)
- The following slides explore some of what it means to be church family... applicable in the context of our church and The Church

**BEING
SPIRIT LED**

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

ROMANS 8

**SHARING
HIGHS
AND LOWS**

12 Just as a body,
though one, has
many parts, but all
its many parts form
one body, so it is
with Christ...

... 26 If one part
suffers, every part
suffers with it; if one
part is honored,
every part rejoices
with it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12

**LOVING AS
WE ARE
LOVED AND
FORGIVING
AS WE ARE
FORGIVEN**

12 Therefore, as
God's chosen
people, holy and
dearly loved,
clothe yourselves
with compassion,
kindness, humility,
gentleness and
patience.

COLOSSIANS 3

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.

COLOSSIANS 3

We Are Family

- This starts with knowing, embracing and living in the love of God enabling us to live and love in His grace
- Bearing with one another works two ways - don't expect everyone else to do the bearing with you!
- Forgiving is not akin to forgetting, accepting or ignoring things that need addressing

**FAMILIES
ARE
OFTEN
COMPLICATED!**

We Are Family

- Every family faces crises, complications, times of celebration, times of grief, the need for forgiveness, relational difficulties...
- Family is the context where many experience life's greatest joys and our greatest pains
- This church has been family to many

We Are Family

- We don't choose (most of) our family
 - ... but we do sometimes have choices to make
- God has chosen us!
- Every family has its unique customs, values and expectations
 - The head of our family is Christ
 - Our teams and activities aim to cultivate Kingdom 'oikos'

**HELPING
CREATE A
HEALTHY
OIKOS
(ECOSYSTEM)
FOR FAITH
TO FLOURISH**

**(CULTURE = 'HOW WE DO
THINGS AROUND HERE')**

14 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, 15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

We Are Family

- Paul is explaining to Timothy what Christian community looks like
- Love God, love people
- Respect and kindness
- Honour the family name
- Truth in love
- Contribute to the household

**OUR GOAL AS A
CHRIST-CENTRED
AND BIBLE
SHAPED
CHURCH FAMILY
IS TO SHARE
AND DISPLAY
THE LOVE JESUS
HAS Poured
INTO OUR LIVES**

34 "A new
command I give
you: Love one
another. As I have
loved you, so you
must love one
another. 35 By this
everyone will
know that you are
my disciples, if
you love one
another."

**LORD, HELP
US TO
LOVE AND
SERVE
YOUR
FAMILY,
AMEN**

A PEOPLE
WHO...



...ARE FAMILY