

**"AND OVER ALL THESE VIRTUES PUT
ON LOVE, WHICH BINDS THEM ALL
TOGETHER IN PERFECT UNITY."**

- COLOSSIANS 3:14



DEVOTION:

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of family – for the bonds we share, the laughter we enjoy, and the support we receive. Help us, Lord, to build our home on your love and grace, making it a place where you are honored and where each of us can grow closer to you. Amen.

Reflection:

Take a moment to look around at your family. Each person here is a unique and precious gift from God. Our families are the first communities we experience, the first places we learn about love, forgiveness, and living with others.

Psalm 127:1 reminds us of a fundamental truth: *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain."* This isn't just about physical bricks and mortar, but about the very foundation of our relationships. If we try to build our family life purely on our own strength, our own rules, or our own desires, we'll often find ourselves struggling and feeling like our efforts are wasted.

But when we invite God to be the architect, when we seek His guidance and presence, our efforts are blessed. This means intentionally putting God at the center of our family life.

How do we do that? Colossians 3:14 gives us a key: *"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."* Love, as described in the Bible, is not just a feeling; it's an action. It's patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

In our families, this love means:

- **Showing Grace:** Just as God extends grace to us, we are called to extend it to one another. This means forgiving quickly, offering understanding, and giving each other room to make mistakes and grow.
- **Speaking Words of Affirmation:** Letting each family member know they are valued, loved, and appreciated.
- **Serving One Another:** Looking for ways to help, support, and care for each other's needs, whether it's helping with chores, listening to a problem, or offering encouragement.
- **Making Time for Each Other:** In our busy lives, it's easy to get distracted. Prioritizing time together – whether it's at meals, during activities, or simply talking – strengthens our bonds.
- **Praying Together and For Each Other:** Inviting God into our daily routines and our challenges. This is a powerful way to acknowledge His presence and seek His wisdom.

When we actively choose to build our homes on love and grace, empowered by God's Spirit, our families become places of refuge, growth, and joy. They become reflections of God's kingdom on earth.