

DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH NL | SUNDAY SERMON | 22 FEBRUARY 2026

HOW JESUS TRANSFORMS YOUR VITAL RELATIONSHIPS

Bible Reading: Colossians 3:1-25

The Christian life is never lived in isolation. We are saved personally, but we live relationally. Marriage, family, church, workplace, neighbourhood, friendships, and professional connections form the network through which our Christianity is tested and revealed. These relationships either become channels of joy and progress or corridors of grief and stagnation. Authentic spirituality must manifest in transformed relationships. If Christ has truly changed your heart, He must inevitably change how you relate to people.

SUPERNATURAL PRESENCE: CHRIST RULING WITHIN: Col. 3:1-4,15,16

The greatest need in your relationships is not better communication techniques. It is a stronger consciousness of divine presence. Before relationships are transformed outwardly, Christ must be received inwardly. The inward Christ produces outward fruit (Gal. 5:22,23). Christianity is not mere moral reform. It is Christ becoming your life (Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 5:17). It is receiving a new heart and the indwelling Spirit (Eze. 36:25-27). When Christ is received, His peace rules internally, His Word directs practically and His Spirit empowers daily. This means the believer does not walk into marriage alone, does not raise children alone, and does not step into the workplace alone. Jesus promised, *"We will come unto him, and make our abode with him"* (John 14:23). Once Christ governs the heart, He begins to regulate human connections.

SANCTIFIED PERSONALITY: THE INNER LIFE THAT SHIFTS RELATIONSHIPS: Col. 3:12-15,8

A proud heart cannot sustain peaceful relationships and a resentful spirit cannot cultivate lasting fellowship but when Christ works within, the evidence becomes visible. Mercy replaces harshness, kindness displaces cruelty, humility dismantles pride, meekness restrains anger and forgiveness uproots bitterness (Gal. 5:22,23). When conflict arises, the peace of Christ decides your response (Col. 3:15). Toxic work environments are impacted, hostile relatives soften, doors open unexpectedly. Christ becomes the reference point, relationships are purified. Before speaking, ask. Can I say this in Jesus' name? Before signing that contract. Can I attach Christ's name to this action? Before reacting in anger. Does this reflect Christ?

Vital relationships determine much of our joy, usefulness and spiritual progress. If Christ truly becomes our life, our Marriages become testimonies, our Homes become sanctuaries, our Workplaces become mission fields, and our friendships become channels of grace.

SACRED PARTNERSHIPS: DIVINE ORDER FOR DAILY RELATIONSHIPS: Col. 3:18-25; 4:1

God is not only concerned with your devotion. He is concerned with your domestic life, your conduct, and your consistency. After establishing the inner life, Paul immediately addresses the structure of daily relationships. Marriage flourishes wherever Christ reigns. Husbands are commanded to be tender, not tyrannical (Col. 3:19). Bitterness poisons intimacy but also weakens spiritual life. Scripture ties marital conduct directly to prayer effectiveness (1 Pet. 3:7). Likewise, *"Wives, submit yourselves... as it is fit in the Lord."* A wife who resists godly order introduces tension that disturbs the peace of the home (Eph. 5:22-25). Christ-centred marriages are not sustained by romance alone but by surrender. In the family, *"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."* and *"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger."* (Col. 3:20,21). Correct without crushing, lead without intimidating. A father who apologizes when wrong disciplines his children in humility. Parents who pray with their children lay foundations no storm can easily uproot. Loving discipline produces respect; neglected discipline produces disorder. At work or in the professional life, the believer does not work merely for pay-day but as one serving Christ Himself (Colossians 3:23,24). Your diligence is an act of worship. You are not to steal but to labour faithfully (Eph. 4:28). Not stealing time; no silent dishonesty or hidden shortcuts because integrity attracts favour, diligence builds credibility and faithfulness invites increase (Luke 16:10a). Knowing that our relationships either strengthen or weaken our walk with God or weaken it, we must choose carefully (Pro. 13:20; 1 Cor. 15:33; Mark 3:14). For younger believers especially, Scripture calls you to relate *"in all purity"* (1 Tim. 5:2; 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:22). If Christ dwells in you, your friendships must be purified, not polluting. You are not called to be moulded by peer pressure, you are called to influence by godly presence.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible" – Luke 1:37