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COMMUNITY

Thanksgiving: God's Heart for Broken Families and Missing the Tables We Used to Know

By Tori King November 15, 2026

Psalm 133:1: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

As Thanksgiving approaches, it is hard not to notice how much has changed. Years ago, the holiday meant loud kitchens, crowded living rooms, and long tables surrounded by generations of families. Today, many families feel fractured. Busy schedules, distance, old arguments, and unspoken hurts keep people apart. For many, the season brings a quiet ache instead of warmth.

King David wrote this psalm after years of civil war, tribal jealousy, and bitter family conflict had torn Israel apart. David knew the pain of a divided household firsthand. When the scattered tribes finally laid down their pride and came back together, he declared how "good and pleasant" it is when God's people live in unity.

Centuries later, the Apostle Paul echoed that same truth from a Roman prison cell. Writing to a church in Colossae that was strained by pride, cultural differences, and deep grievances, Paul urged them to "forgive as the Lord forgave you" and let Christ's peace rule in their hearts, ending with a simple command: "And be thankful" (Colossians 3:13-15). Paul knew that forgiveness and gratitude are not things we wait for once everyone gets along. They are the spiritual glue that holds imperfect people together in the middle of friction.

Neither Paul nor David wrote about unity from an easy, problem-free life. They wrote these words after witnessing deep relational brokenness, family conflict, and separation. Even when a family feels scattered, the Lord is a God of restoration who can soften hardened hearts and rebuild what has been torn down.

Inviting the Lord to the table this year: True Thanksgiving is not about pretending our families are flawless. Rebuilding closeness today takes humility, grace, and a forgiving heart. Every one of us has made mistakes and fallen short of our responsibilities. It is about thanking the Lord for His faithfulness and letting His love lead us toward one another.

This Thanksgiving, make a phone call you have been putting off, offer grace over an old wound, or pray for the family members who cannot be at your table. When we invite the Lord into our brokenness, He brings His peace right in the middle of it.

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your unconditional love for us!