

The Family of God

TEXT: Matthew 12:46-50, “While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his* mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

THESIS: God’s family is a special family and we must look at the different aspects of the Christian family to make it more profitable for ourselves and for the Lord.

INTRODUCTION:

1. One of the most important parts of the church is its family-like aspect.
 - a. Paul said to Timothy, “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (1 Tim 3:15).
 - b. Family is possibly the most attractive figure of speech describing the church.
 - c. Being a part of the family of God is a great blessing.
2. We all realize how important a family is.
 - a. We marry, have children, rear them, & cry when they leave.
 - b. Why, because of the importance of family.
3. What are some of the elements of the family that make the family really work?

DISCUSSION:

I. IN A FAMILY WE FIND EXPECTATIONS.

- A. Jesus has given different talents to different people, & He expects those talents to be used.
 1. “His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” (Mat 25:21).
 2. Jesus wants us to grow.
 - a. To, “grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen” (2 Pet 3:18).
 3. Jesus wants us to mature.
 - a. “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:” (Col 1:28).
- B. And, God wants us to realize our potential.
 1. And therefore, He expects us to do our best.

II. IN A FAMILY WE HAVE FORGIVENESS.

- A. Jesus is willing to forgive everyone in the family who repents.

1. “Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.” (Mat 18:21-22).
- B. Jesus expects us to forgive one another.
 1. We do things from time to time that are problematic.
 2. But if we, “forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Mat 6:14-15).
- C. And, when we forgive, we are to forget.
 1. You know, it is very difficult for a person when they say that they are sorry and then to have someone always talking about the way they use to be, or the things they use to do.
 2. When we do this, it lets the other person know that they have not really been forgiven.

III. IN A FAMILY THERE IS ENCOURAGEMENT.

- A. Jesus wants us to encourage one another.
 1. “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.” (1 Th 5:11).
- B. But, how do we encourage each other?
 1. It starts with properly spoken words.
 - a. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” (Eph 4:29).
 2. It continues with togetherness.
 - a. “let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another . . .*” (Heb 10:24-25).
 3. It also includes cooperation [working together].
 - a. “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building.” (1 Cor 3:9).
 4. And it is topped off with Manifested love (1 Cor 13).
 - a. Love is patient and kind because it bears, believes, hopes and endures all things.
 - b. It is not boastful, arrogant, rude and does not rejoice at wrongdoings.

IV. IN A FAMILY THERE IS DISCIPLINE.

- A. God's family must be a disciplined family.
 1. “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.” (Heb

12:7-8).

2. If we are not disciplined, we are not God's children because discipline helps us to become Christ-like people.
 - a. This is why, "All scripture *is God-breathed*, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- B. God expects us to live a certain way in His family.
 1. And, the way we live will bring either glory or dishonor upon God.

V. IN A FAMILY WE HAVE A SUPPORT GROUP.

- A. God wants His family to be sensitive.
 1. "whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." (1 Cor 12:26).
 2. Studies have shown in the fields of psychiatry & psychology that the most effective techniques are associated with group therapy.
- B. We need to get together as a group.

VI. IN A FAMILY PROBLEMS ARE WORKED OUT.

- A. Since the church is made up of people, problems are going to arise from time to time.
 1. In Acts 6, there was a problem in the church in which the widows were being neglected.
 2. In Acts 15, there was another problem in the church in which some members thought it necessary to be circumcised and keep the law of Moses too.
- B. So too, God wants us to deal with the problems & find the biblical solutions.

VII. IN A FAMILY THERE IS A PLACE OF IDENTITY.

- A. God wants us to know who we are.
 1. If you were asked, "Who are you?" what would you write down?
 2. What makes you different?
 - a. The family you belong to makes you different.
 - b. The name you wear makes you different.
 - (1) "... the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." (Acts 11:26).
 - c. The talents you have makes you different.
 - d. The principles you live by makes you different.
 - (1) "let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (1 Pet 4:15-16)
- B. God wants us to realize that we are His children; we are Christians.

1. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Gal 3:26-27).

VIII. IN A FAMILY WE FIND SECURITY.

- A. God wants us to feel secure in His family.
 1. Rom. 8:31-39, “What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 2. And, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12).
- B. A lot of the problems that are in the world are there because homes are not providing security.
 1. But, there is security with God.

IX. IN A FAMILY THERE IS ACCEPTANCE.

- A. We are to accept one another.
 1. “As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.” (Rom 14:1)
 2. “Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.” (Rom. 15:7).
 3. That doesn't mean we accept what people do that is wrong because sin is sin and it must always be dealt with.
 - a. But we accept people in matters of judgment, in weakness of faith, & in immaturity.
- B. We must have the attitude of acceptance.
 1. “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:17).
 2. Look at Matt. 19 and the Little children. “**Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.**”
 3. Look in Lk. 19 with Zaccheus a tax collector and publican, ran to see Jesus. “Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto

him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.”

4. Look in Jn. 8 and the adulterous woman, who when confronted by others, Jesus forgave her of her sins and told her to go and sin no more.

C. We need to want one another.

X. IN A FAMILY WE FIND COMFORT.

A. God is a comforting Father.

1. “Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;” (2 Cor 1:3).
2. Therefore, God's family should be a place where we find comfort.
 - a. The world is often an uncomfortable place by the lives people live, by their corrupted speech, and by their selfish, hateful attitudes.

B. But, in God's family, there is comforting care.

1. God want us to care of His children.
2. This is why Paul said, “we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.” (1 Th 5:14).
 - a. The Christian who hesitates to serve and live for Christ must be encouraged.
 - b. Those who are spiritually weak and who yield so easily to temptation, who are easily burdened, need us clinging to them and holding them up.
 - c. And, instead of being short tempered with other Christians, we must be very patient with them.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's family is a place of:
 - a. Expectations, forgiveness, encouragement, discipline, support, problems are resolved, identity, security, acceptance, & comfort.
2. As the family of God,
 - a. Let us be steadfast.
 - i. Continuing, “in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42).
 - b. Let us be responsible.
 - i. As Isaiah penned, “. . . Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.” (Isa 6:8).
 - c. Let us be aware of the family needs.
 - i. For, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (Js 1:27).
 - d. Let us be encouragers.
 - i. To, “exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be

- hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Heb 3:13).
3. The church works well when the family scene is working well.
 - a. God's family is the greatest family.