

## **THE FAMILY OF GOD**

### **Hebrews 2:10-13**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION-**

- a. Some years ago... on an Easter Sunday... after a particularly moving and powerful worship service at their church.
- b. An idea for a song came into the heart of Bill Gaither...he shared the idea for the song with his wife Gloria.
- c. That afternoon Bill sat down at the piano and began composing a tune... while Gloria sat at their dinner table... and began writing words down as they came into her heart and mind.
- d. When each of them had finished their part... they put the tune together with the words... and it was a perfect fit.
- e. The song the Gaithers wrote that day...is a song entitled “The Family of God.”
- f. “You will notice we say “brother” and “sister” ’round here... It’s because we’re a family... and these folks are so near... When one has a heartache we all share the tears... And rejoice in each vict’ry in this fam’ly so dear... From the door of an orph’nage to the house of the King... No longer an outcast... a new song I sing... From rags unto riches... from the weak to the strong... I’m not worthy to be here... but praise God, I belong!... I’m so glad I’m a part of the fam’ly of God!... I’ve been washed in the fountain... Cleansed by His blood... Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod... For I’m part of the fam’ly... The fam’ly of God.”
- g. I love and care about my human family... my biological family... I love the family I came from ... and I love the family that my wife and I have created through our marriage.
- h. I also love my spiritual family... I love my brothers and sisters in the Lord ... my fellow Christians...I love my church family.

- i. The focus of these verses... is on the family of God... the spiritual family that every born again believer is a part of.
- j. Today I want us to see three important things... about the family of God.

## **II. ANYONE CAN BE A PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD-**

- a. Families have always mattered to God... families have always been important to God.
- b. Before God created a nation ... before He created the church... God created a family... Adam and Eve.
- c. A little girl once asked her mother where she came from... her mother told her that God created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden... and they became the parents of the human race... the little girl then went and asked her father the same question... her father told the girl that we all came from monkeys who evolved into human beings... the little girl was confused... she went back to her mom and said...  
“Mom, you said that God created us and daddy says that we came from monkeys... How can you both be right?”... Her mother said...  
“Sweetheart, that’s easy... I told you about my side of the family... and your father told you about his side of the family.”
- d. In this world... some people have good families... some people have bad families... some people have families that are good and bad ... some people have no family.
- e. The good news is... no matter who you are... no matter what kind of biological family a person may have in this world... anyone can be a part of the family of God... God wants you to be a part of His family.
- f. In this age of ultra-inclusion that we live in...there is the popular belief that everyone on the planet...is already a part of the family of God.

- g. We often hear it said that we are all God's children... but the Bible never teaches that.
- h. Jesus said that there are two spiritual Fathers... and there are two spiritual families in the world.
- i. In John 8:44... Jesus said to the Pharisees... *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do."*
- j. Jesus taught that if you are not a Christian... then you are not a part of the family of God.
- k. Jesus said that those who refuse to repent of their sins... and receive Him as their Savior and Lord Jesus... are following the lead ...and doing the will of their spiritual father... the devil.
- l. God loves everyone... God wants every person to be saved... God wants everyone to be a part of His family... God wants everyone to come home and be with Him in Heaven.
- m. But only those who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ... become the children of God and are a part of the family of God.
- n. *John 1:12-13 (NKJV) "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*
- o. In this world... there are three ways you can join a biological family.
- p. You can be born into a family... you can be adopted into a family... or you can marry into a family.
- q. It is interesting that the Bible teaches that we enter God's family... in the same three ways.

- r. In John 3... Jesus told Nicodemus he had to be born again to see the Kingdom of Heaven... Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again to be a part of the family of God.
- s. Physical birth makes you a part of the family of mankind... physical birth makes you a part of the human family...but physical birth does not automatically make you a part of the family of God.
- t. To be a part of the family of God...you must be born again... and when you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord... you experience a new birth into God's family.
- u. The second way you join a family is through adoption...when a person is adopted that means a family has chosen them.
- v. The Bible teaches that before the foundation of the world... God chose to adopt all those who are born again into His family.
- w. *Ephesians 1:5 (NLT2)* "God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure."
- x. The third way a person comes into a family is by marriage...when a person is born again... and adopted by God into His family...they become a part of the church...which the Bible teaches is the bride of Christ.
- y. No matter who a person is... no matter what a person has done ... God wants every person to be a part of His family... and you can be and you will be... when you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

### **III. GOD IS PLEASED WHEN A LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY ACTS LIKE THE FAMILY OF GOD-**

- a. A local church is not an organization... like the PTA or AARP.

- b. A local church is not an institution... like a university ... or a government.
- c. A local church is not a business... like Walmart... or the local hardware store.
- d. A local church is a family...made up of brothers and sisters in the Lord.
- e. God is pleased when a local church... acts like the family of God ...  
God is pleased when a local church... acts like His family should.
- f. A local church is to be a family where brothers and sisters in the Lord love one another... care for one another... pray for one another ... support one another ... help one another... encourage one another... and respect one another.
- g. Not only is a local church to be a family where Christians love one another... a local church is to be a family which loves the lost.
- h. The local church is to be a family where those who are lost... low... and left out... will find love, encouragement and help.
- i. A local church is to be a family where those who have been beaten up by life... those who have been beaten up by their own bad choices... where those who are searching for answers... where those who are searching for God... will find a family of people... who will love them... encouragement them... care about them...and help them.
- j. The doors of a church should be open to anyone for whom Christ died ... the doors of a church should be open to anyone... who is seeking to know the truth and to find God.
- k. The ministry of a local church to those who are lost is to be built on two things... the uncompromised truth of God's Word... and a demonstration of the love of Christ.

- l. Loving the lost does not mean that we are to compromise the truth of God...it is not loving to try to make lost people comfortable in their sin... and to hide the danger of sin from them.
- m. A local church is to be a place where those who are lost... hear the uncompromised and unfettered truth of God's Word and the gospel of Jesus Christ... and experience the love of God from God's people.

#### **IV. GOD IS NOT PLEASED WHEN A LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY FAILS TO ACT LIKE THE FAMILY OF GOD-**

- a. In Revelation 2 and 3... there are seven letters... dictated by the Lord Jesus ... to seven local churches which were located in the ancient province of Asia.
- b. One thing you learn from those letters is that the Lord Jesus is intimately aware and intimately involved...in the life of every local church.
- c. Jesus told each one of those churches "I know your works" ... I know what you are doing ... I know what is happening... I know the good and the bad that you are doing and not doing.
- d. The 7 churches of Asia were not mega-churches... they were most likely no larger in number than our church.
- e. Another thing you learn from those letters... is that the Lord is quick to give His approval to what was good in these churches.
- f. The Lord did not ignore what was wrong in these churches... He strongly dealt with what was wrong in each one of them... but the Lord did not ignore what was right in these churches either.
- g. In those letters... if the Lord found something good and positive to say about the church... He said it first.
- h. Churches have their faults and problems... we all know that... but we should not ignore the good things that churches do...the Lord doesn't.

- i. I personally get tired of people constantly bashing and running down the church ... and some of those who do this the most... are people in the church...especially preachers.
- j. If the Lord tarries His coming I am going to preach at next year's area Thanksgiving service and the Lord has already given me the sermon I am going to preach... "Why I Am Thankful For The Church."
- k. I am thankful for the Proclamation of the Church... I am thankful for the Praise of the Church... I am thankful for the People of the Church ... I am thankful for the Prayers of the Church... I am thankful for the Purpose of the Church... I am thankful for the Positive Impact of the Church... and I will be thankful for any other "P" I can think of between now and then.
- l. I tell you a little secret...the Lord is not near as critical of His churches as many people in the church are today.
- m. But with all that being said... the seven letters in Revelation also teach that the Lord will discipline a church...when it persistently fail to be the family of God that they ought to be.
- n. To several of the churches of Asia... Jesus gave this warning... "repent ... or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place."
- o. The lampstand represents... the presence and power of the Lord Jesus.
- p. This is a dire warning that every local church needs to heed... a church can wander so far and so long from what the Lord wants it to be ... that it will lose the anointing... the presence... and the power God...it will lose the power to make an impact on the world around it.

## **V. CONCLUSION-**

- a. Personally... I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God!
- b. You too can be part of the family of God... give your life to Christ.

- c. Today... many people in the church say that if so-and-so over there will do this or that... we can have revival.
- d. If we want revival in the church... then we need to quit worrying about what somebody else should be doing or not doing... and we need to start doing what we should be doing.
- e. If we want revival... then we need to start repenting of our sins... we need to start loving others as we should ... we need to forgive as we should ... we need to start being faithful ... we need to start praying for others... we need to start reading our Bible ... we need to start inviting others to church... we need to start supporting and attending our church as we should... we need to start sharing Christ and witnessing.
- f. If we stop worrying about what other people are doing or not doing ... and we start doing what we should be doing... we can have revival... and we can be the family of God that God wants us to be.