



NEWS BULLETIN

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE: BEING the FAMILY of GOD

The Bible uses many different metaphors for a Christian gathering. The people of God, the dwelling of God, the body of Christ, a priesthood, a holy nation, and the family of God. The church as a family is such a precious image.

We have God as our Father: a Father who gives us life, physical life, and spiritual life through new birth; a Father who tenderly cares for us, providing everything we need while we live on this earth; a Father who lovingly disciplines us for our good, because He doesn't want us to be wayward children.

We have Christ as our elder brother: an elder brother who's not ashamed of us; an elder brother who is willing to share the family inheritance with us; who, in fact, laid down His life for us so that we could have an inheritance; an elder brother who loves us, and who comes to share His life with us, and who prays for us, and makes us acceptable to His Father.

And then we have a vast family of brothers and sisters: brothers and sisters from different backgrounds, ethnicities, social standings; brothers and sisters who we can love and who love us; brothers and sisters who can encourage us when we are struggling.

Sometimes, family life isn't always good. The sin that remains in us can cause us to be selfish, unloving, bitter, and make us want to hide from our brothers and sisters. However, being in God's family is still a most precious gift. What we need to do is work at being family. Just as in any family we need to work hard, so we need to work hard within the church to be the family God has made us to be.

That will mean...

- taking notice when family members are missing, and rather than asking the Pastor or Elders where they are, ringing them, texting them, visiting them ourselves to make sure they are OK. That way, they know that the whole family loves them and misses them.
- providing for family members in need. One of the things that blessed us when I had my accident was people bringing meals to us. It showed we were loved.
- ensuring we gather regularly with each other. Families become strong as they hang out together. The church family is no different. We will become stronger as we spend time together.
- welcoming new family members. We want to see God's family grow. As the Lord adds to His family so we are to welcome them.

Let's seek this year to glorify God by being His family.

Thank you again for your love and support love this last year. May the Lord richly bless us through 2020. Your brother in Christ, Pastor Tim