

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

We hear of the church referred to as “*family*.” When we talk about our own “*family*”, it carries a special significance and warms our hearts. We spend time with “*family*” because they are dear to us.

God is the Creator of “*family*.” From the beginning, He designed it. But in His design, He had in mind a spiritual “*family*” (Gen. 3:15). To Abraham He promised a spiritual “*family*” (Gen. 22:18). Paul proclaimed that seed to be Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:16). In Jesus, man was going to be redeemed (bought back) to God because sin creates a separation. The death of Jesus, His shed blood, brought us to God. When we were baptized into Christ, we were born again into this spiritual “*family*.” We have a new Father (Heb. 2:10-11), not like our earthly father. This spiritual “*family*” became known as the church, the saved.

What makes us a spiritual “*family*” is that we partake in the same Father. We have all the spiritual blessings given that earthly ties can’t offer (Eph. 1:3). We are called brethren (Heb. 3:1), which means “from the same womb.” To be born from the same womb, means our Father, through the death of Jesus, created this new “*family*.” We are children of God (Rom. 8:16), members of one another (Rom. 12:4-5), and heirs (Gal. 3:29). This spiritual “*family*” is united in one faith and calling (Eph. 4:4-6) and has one purpose in heart toward the Lord, their Father (Phil. 2:1-2). There is **no** fellowship or spiritual blessings for those outside of Christ or those who live in sin.

Only those who have been baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins can be part of this “*family*” (Rom. 6). They are “added”, not joining as with a social group, to the “*family*” of God. Only “*family*” will be in heaven with their Father. There will be no outsiders or pretenders there.

The question we must ask is: How do we relate to the heavenly Father? Our relationship to the Father is shown in our relationship to this spiritual “*family*.” To have little effort or desire to be part of this spiritual “*family*” reveals our standing with God. People that don’t belong feel left out and have a sense they don’t belong. They are either outside of Jesus or they are walking in darkness, and both keep you from enjoying “*family*” blessings.

Just like our physical “*families*” who we love and whose company we enjoy, our spiritual “*family*” should have the same impact because we are going to spend eternity together with the Father and His “*family*.” John said if we don’t love our “brother”, we don’t love the Father (I John 4:20-21). Love is shown in action. Those who don’t see a need to be one with this spiritual “*family*” have then only an earthly “*family*” and it will soon pass away. Think about it!!!

Brent