

You Are Part of a Family



“Therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the house of God.”

Ephesians 2:19

The Family that You Never Had: I always wanted a sister. A brother I got, and a great one at that, but not quite the same as a sister that you can dress up with, and talk about women things. But then my brother married a wonderful girl named Sarah, and my whole life changed. Not only did I now have a sister now, but she has four sisters!... And they have now become my family also. I love it, and it is all because a marriage brought our families together. Did you know that a Spiritual marriage in Heaven has given you a whole new family? The father, mother, sister, brother, that you never had is now available to you.

The Marriage of all Marriages:

This isn't the kind of marriage you are thinking about, where a boy marries a girl. No, it's far greater than that. It's where God has given His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be as a committed husband to His Bride, made up of the Church Body. The Church is made up of everyone who would call Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior. Ephesians 5:25 says, “Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it.” This means that, in the same way a husband commits to love and be faithful to his wife, so Jesus loves and is committed to you, as His followers; but even more so than a normal husband. As the Bible says, Jesus sacrificed His own life to make you His Bride!

Meet Your Family: And as a result, He gave you a whole big family, filled with the others who are like you: followers of Jesus. In fact, the family of God is filled with every single person who has had, or will have faith in Jesus as their Savior. It is the tie that binds all of us together. That means we can be family with people of different cultures, and different ages, even different time periods. The great apostles of the Church: Peter, Paul, John, Mark, are all our relatives! This includes the poor people in destitute countries who trust in Jesus, and the rich in plentiful countries who bow to Him as Lord: we are all Family. **Listen to what it says:** “For you 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.” “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all One in Christ Jesus.” “And if you be Christ's then are you Abraham's seed, and Heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:26-29 This is Awesome!! God has really blessed us! He doesn't want us to be alone, struggling through life.

Think of a baby that is born and thrown out into the cold...how terrible! And many of us have felt that way at one time or another, when we are really lonely and in need. No, God wants you to have a Spiritual family where you can be loved and cared for, and you can eventually love and care for others. Psalm 68:6 says, “God setteth the solitary (lonely, desolate, sons and daughters) in families: He bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.”

The Privileges of God's

Family: You are a part of an incredible family in God's house, and a part of His family, and you have incredible privileges. The following are just some of them: **1. You get to have the God of the Universe as your loving, Heavenly Father:** The God that created every star in the sky and every tiny atom in the world, **cares for you as a Father.** "Like as a father pitieth (is tender hearted, has compassion on) his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." Psalm 103:13 That means that you can come to Him and find love, protection, and guidance you are looking for in a Father. You may not have had a loving, active father in your life, but God can fill your heart with the love and care you need...More than you can even imagine! He is "A Father of the fatherless, and a judge (advocate) the widows, is God in His Holy Habitation." Psalm 68:5 **2. You have People all over the World (near and far) to support and love you as a Family.**

Family is the bond that God created to be the most secure source of care, commitment, and guidance. It is where you would find value, safety, and support to become the person God created you to be. That is exactly how God's family, the church body, is to be. In your peers, you find spiritual brothers and sisters, and more mature people become as spiritual mom's and dad's. Paul, one of the church's first leaders explained this to his spiritual son, Timothy: "Rebuke not an elder, but treat him as a Father: and the younger men as brethren." The elder women as mothers: the younger as sisters, with all purity." 1 Timothy 5:1-3...To explain: "Never use harsh words when you correct an older man, but talk to him as if he were your father. Talk to younger men as if they were your brothers, older women as if they were your mothers, and younger women as if they were your sisters, while keeping yourself morally pure. **3.You can Contribute to the Growth of the Family:** God has created you to play a very important role in His family. You are a Unique person, and no one will be able to perfectly fill your shoes. There is a saying, "When God made each of each one of us, He broke the mold." The Holy Bible actually compares us all to an intricate body, with each person being a specific part: He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does it's own special work,

it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and edified (build up) in love. Ephesians 4:16 **What part are you?** Maybe you are the mouth, and God created you to communicate the Word of God to others. Or you are help for the lonely and needy; helping and encouraging them, and perhaps also, leading them to Faith and Salvation, and a life of being an overcomer. One person can share something and than another person comes along and shares a little more; each being a help to people God brings into your life. If you don't know your role as yet, ask God and He will show you as you go along. God has a wonderful plan for each one of us, and He has already placed the abilities and talents we need, to accomplish His Will for our life! All we have to do is Trust Him and He will give us the desires of our Heart. **Scripture:** "Delight thyself in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." "Commit thy way unto the Lord; Trust also in Him and He shall bring to it to pass." "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him." Psalm 37:4-5, 7

