

The Church as God's Family Selected Scriptures

Various metaphors are used in the New Testament to give us a picture of what the church is like (flock, building, vineyard, etc), but to view the church as a family, as we will do today, is not metaphorical. Family is a literal description of the entity we know as the church. Through God's gracious call, He brings us not only to Himself, but to brothers and sisters, also redeemed by grace, with whom we will spend eternity. Together we are members of God's forever family.

The Church as God's Family - Biblical Foundations

1. Jesus' unexpected response to a comment about His _____
(Matthew 12:46-50)
2. Jesus' heartening revelation of God as our Loving, Heavenly _____
(Selected Verses)
3. The New Testament's striking transition from identifying Christ's followers as disciples to referring to them as _____
4. The New Testament's description of the church as "The _____ of God" (Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 6:10; I Timothy 3:15)
5. The New Testament's identification of Jesus as our "older _____"
(Matthew 28:11; John 20:17; Hebrews 2:11; Romans 8:29)
6. Our spiritual _____ is a distinctively family concept (John 1:12; Galatians 3:26; I John 3:1-2).

The Church as God's Family – Practical Implications

1. One of God's greatest gifts is our spiritual _____ (Mark 10:28-30; I John 1:3).
2. As institutions established by God, His intent is that there be _____ health in the home as well as the church.
3. Relationships in God's forever family are captured in the rich word for *fellowship (koinonia)* and are to be among our highest _____ (Acts 2:41-42; Romans 12:10; II Peter 1:7).
4. The New Testament *one another's* are a picture of how we are to _____ in God's family.