

“I’m a Member of God’s Family!”

John 1.12; Rom. 8.14-17; 1 John 3.1-2

‘Family’ has been under attack for years. Fathers are superfluous; stay-at-home moms are belittled. But statistics say children from two-parent homes do better than other kids. It’s no surprise: God created families, and He has His own! Being in God’s family gives security, and more!

- A Brief History of God and Family
*From the very beginning, family was God’s plan
In OT history and the Law, family is emphasized
In NT writings, family roles reflect godliness
Jesus revealed the spiritual family of God*
- The way we get into God’s family: By faith and adoption
By believing we become ‘children of God’ (John 1.12)

We are ‘adopted’ into God’s family (Eph. 1.5; 2.19)
- From ‘children’ to ‘sons’: Growing in God’s Family (Rom. 8.14-17)
Experiencing greater intimacy

Enjoying greater assurance

Expecting greater glory



1. Throughout human history, the basic social unit has been the family. There is overwhelming evidence that married parents raising children in a loving home produces the best results. Jesus characterized Satan as one who comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10.10a). How has Satan attacked the family? What role has materialism played in this? How have the ‘feminist movement’ and ‘sexual revolution’ affected societal norms? What affect has a post-modern worldview, in which ‘absolute truth’ is denied, had in changing historical family roles? Is technology also affecting the family? In what ways? If you are older and looking back on your family years, how would you change what you did? If you are young and beginning your family years, what are your goals as a parent? What can you do to protect your family?
2. The idea of family is part of the fabric of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. How does God establish the family unit in the creation narrative? (See Gen. 1.26-28; 2.18-25.) How did the entrance of sin into the world affect family relations? How is the family emphasized in the narrative of Noah? Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? The Law? In Proverbs? In the New Testament, what family roles are emphasized (Matt. 5.31-32; 19.3-9; 1 Cor. 7; Eph. 5.22-33; 6.1-4; Col. 3.18-21; Titus 2.4-5; 1 Pet. 3.1-7, and many more!)? Why are they important?
3. Read Matt. 12.48-50. What concept of ‘family’ does Jesus introduce here? What does John 1.12 tell us? Hebrews 2.10-13? This ‘spiritual family’ idea is all through the New Testament. What uses of “child,” “children,” or “brother” can you find? See Gal. 6.10 and Eph. 2.19.
4. Adoption is disparaged by social progressives today, but historically it exhibits family love. It is one way Scripture portrays our entrance into and participation in God’s family. In NT times, adoption was a well-defined process: An adopted child’s natural father lost all rights over him, his previous life was totally expunged, and he began new life with his new family. Who *was* our old ‘father’ (Jn. 8.44)? Read Rom. 8.14-17. How are “children of God” (16) different from “sons of God” (14)?