

Matt 12:46-50, Mk 3:31-35, Lk 8:19-21 – The Family of God

Introduction

1. God designed the family – He defines the family: one husband, one wife, and their offspring
2. The Spirit of the Age seeks to redefine the family: Blurring of gender roles, gender identity, sexual ethics, aberrant forms of community, feminism, egalitarianism, androgynous *man*
 - a. Attack on marriage, parenting, education system, political system – Satanic ideologies
 - b. The church that is not salt and light, not submitted to the authority of the Word of God capitulates to the enemy
3. Idolatry of the Family is also a danger – God defines the spiritual family, and places priority on the spiritual family, but not at the expense of the physical family

Basic Point: The family of God is made up of those who follow Jesus Christ as His disciples. They are the redeemed who do the will of God, their Father and obey the commands of Jesus, their elder brother.

The “Black Sheep” of the Family (Mark 3:31-32, see 20-21)

1. Opposition to Jesus is growing and is becoming more controversial
 - a. The religious leaders were threatening Him
 - b. His own family thought He was out of His mind (**Matt 12:46**)
 - c. His brothers did not believe in Him (**John 7:1-5**)
2. Jesus’ family comes to intervene, but could not get through the crowd (**Luke 8:19-20**)
3. A side note: Jesus had brothers and sisters, meaning Mary was not a perpetual virgin as the Roman Catholic Doctrine states (**Mt 13:55-7**)
 - a. James was the half-brother of Christ, leader of the Church in Jerusalem, wrote the epistle of *James*
 - b. Jude wrote the epistle of *Jude*
4. It is possible to be misunderstood by the world – Christians seem strange and threatening for they want you to put them first, not Jesus
5. Salvation enhances the natural, physical family – love for God and neighbor, forgiveness of wrongs
6. When Christ is central and first, you will treat everyone better than you did before

The Balanced Priority of Jesus Christ (Mk 13:33-34, Matt 12:48-49)

1. Jesus’ question provokes thought – it seems obvious: your mother and brothers are those outside waiting to talk to you
2. Jesus’ focus: The physical family is not forever, not eternal
 - a. He is not snubbing or dishonoring the natural, physical family
 - b. He is putting the natural, physical family in its proper place
 - c. He asks, *Who is my TRUE family?*

3. Jesus cared for His physical family
 - a. At the Cross He made sure Mary was taken care of by John
 - b. Jesus had a perfect love for His natural, physical family
4. The Ultimate Sense of Family – being a member of the family of God is over and above being a member of a physical family
 - a. **Matt 22:30** – the earthly family is temporary, earthly, and at death is dissolved
 - b. The heavenly family is eternal, heavenly, and everlasting
 - c. Jesus does not dishonor His mother nor deny the importance of the physical family: He is defining the meaning of the true family (**Hebrews 4:10-12, 17-18**)
 - i. Jesus became flesh to identify with the brothers and sisters for whom He laid His life down
 - ii. The physical family images, reflects the spiritual family (**Ephesians 5**)
 - d. Two Dangers: Cultural aberration and idolatry of the Family
 - i. We should not turn the *shadow* into the *substance*
5. The Truth Christ Teaches: Allegiance to Him alone is primary
 - a. Devotion to Jesus looks like hatred to the world (**Luke 14:26, Matthew 10:34-37, Luke 9:59-62**)
6. Words of Warning:
 - a. The church is not a family of families – the church is made of individual saved souls; a family of believers
 - b. Never equate salvation with the natural, physical family – being part of a Christian family does not make one a believer
7. The Family of God is your real and Lasting Family, which is why we call each other brother and sister (**Matthew 10:28-30**)
 - a. When we come to the family of God we receive a hundred fold more brothers and sisters than our physical family
 - b. Proof we are in the family of God is we love the brethren (**1 John 3:14**)

The Body of Christ, the Family of God (Lk 8:21, Mk 3:35, Mt 12:50)

1. The family of God are those who do the will of God
 - a. We do not enter the family of God by doing the will of the Father, but it is evidence that we belong to the family of God
 - b. We enter God’s family by adoption into it (**Ephesians 1:4-6**)
 - i. It is an eternal, everlasting reality; never disowned
 - ii. He makes the sinner and slave into a son or daughter
2. The new birth produces a willing obedience to do God’s will (**Ez 36:26-27, Jms 1:22, Rom 6:17-18, Jn 3:36, 8:31**) located in the Word of God