

The Family of God

Ephes. 2:19 (New Living Translation) So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

Family

1. A group consisting of parents and their children.
2. A group of people closely related by blood, children, and their parents, their cousins, their aunts and uncles.
3. A group consisting of individuals descended from a common ancestry.
4. A harmonious group bond together by a common interest.

If I were to talk about the church being a family simply based on Webster's definition of what a family is we can clearly see the Church is indeed a family.

The church is not just any family.

No, the church is much more than that.

The church is a very special family because it belongs to God.

That's right, the church belongs to God; not you, not me, but God.

And because the Church belongs to God, that's what makes it special.

And since you and I make up what we call the church it makes us a precious and special people in the eyes of God.

The church being called a family is no accident.

No, it's all a part of God's wonderful plan for our lives.

Throughout the scriptures God has elected to use analogies and object lessons that people were familiar with to help them understand the information God wanted to convey to them.

God does this to help us understand the correct or right way to think about things and govern our lives.

When God uses the analogy of the church as a family, he wants us to look at and consider what we have learned about how a natural family operates and apply it to church life.

Understanding how a natural family operates and functions can give us a wealth of information and insight into how God wants the church to operate.

It should help us understand authority structures, the family authority structures, the boundaries and limits of the roles we play, respect, compassion, Godly protocol, benefits, responsibilities, teamwork, happiness, sorrow, love, disappointments, disagreements and much, much more.

But for our lesson today, I want to focus on the benefits of being a part of the family of God.

Today I want to talk about eight benefits of the church.

1. The church is a place God meets with his family.

Mathew 18-20 (The Message) And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

2. The church is a place to hear from God.

Jeremiah 18:1-2 (King James Version) The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, [2] Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

3. The church is a place to grow spiritually.

Romans 12:5 (God's Word) In the same way, even though we are many individuals, Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other.

Be willing to allow the word of God to change you. **Ephes. 4:16** (New Living Translation) Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephes. 4:12-13 (God's Word) Their purpose is to prepare God's people, to serve, and to build up the body of Christ. [13] This is to continue until all of us are united in our faith and in our knowledge about God's Son, until we become mature, until we measure up to Christ, who is the standard.

Winston Churchill – To improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often.

4. The church is a place that helps us communicate God's message.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (New Century Version) All this is from God. Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with him. [19] God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace. [20] So we have been sent to speak for Christ. It is as if God is calling to you through us. We speak for Christ when we beg you to be at peace with God.

1 Peter 2:9 (The Message) But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you.

5. The church is a place that helps us train our children.

Proverbs 22:16 (Contemporary English Version) Cheat the poor to make profit or give gifts to the rich— either way you lose.

6. The church is a place where we can connect with other believers.

7. The church is a place to find comfort and strength in times of need.

2 Corinthians 1:3 (Living Bible) What a wonderful God we have--he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy,

8. The church is a place that helps me contribute something back.

Ephes. 2:10 (Living Bible) It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Today's English Version) So then, my dear friends, stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless.

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