



Who Am I?

"I Am A Member of God's Family"

Gen. 12:1-3, Matt. 12:46-50, 1 Cor. 12:12-27, Rev. 22:1-7

Sunday | February 7th, 2016 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Matthew 12:46-50 "While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Neil Anderson] "Show me people today who know who they are as children of God and have committed themselves to Him, and I will show you those who have a profound sense of self and worth. Show me somebody who is continually growing in the fruit of the Spirit, whose life is characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Will that person have a good sense of identity and value? Yes, I am sure of it. And the beautiful part of that truth is that everyone has exactly the same opportunity."

Some people appear to play such a large observable role as a member of Christ's body, others may feel they are not needed. But Paul writes in 1 Cor. 12:21, 22, 'The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' on the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.' I'm glad God gives special honors, because we have a tendency to ignore those who are less gifted or talented.

When I accept speaking invitations, I am keenly aware that the outcome will be determined as much by the work of the sound man as by my own presentation. The attention afforded me is also directly related to the person who controls the thermostat. All 'player' have a part, and as with any team effort, all are dependent upon the others to fulfill their roles and use their unique gifts and talents."¹

DISCUSS

1. Share a favorite family memory with the group.
2. Pastor Patrick asked the following question, "What is the book of Genesis about?" What was the answer?²
3. As Christians, what does it mean that we are members of the family of God?
4. Is it difficult for you to think of God as a Father? Why or why not?
5. What does it mean to you that you have spiritual brothers and sisters in Christ? How does that make you feel? What does that mean for us as a group?

¹Neil Anderson, *Living Free In Christ* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1993), p. 63, 64.

²Genesis is about the origin of a particular family and the record of that family's rejection of God and subsequent fracture. And then from among the many families, one family was chosen and established by God to be the family through which God would reconcile all families back to Himself (See Gen. 12:1-3).