

- **How much does family mean to us?**
- **What are the benefits, responsibilities and opportunities of family?**
- **Paul continues in his letter to the Ephesians...**

Ephesians 2:14-21. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

Members of Christ's Household

Genesis 1:26-28. Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

God our Creator and Father

Genesis 1:27. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them

God our Father desires a family

□ Be fruitful and increase in number

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.

We became separated from God and our Family

Genesis 3:8-12. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” ¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” ¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

□ Disobedience led to separation, guilt and shame

Reconciled with our Father and our Family/Household

Ephesians 2:15-20. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household

□ Christ’s death, burial and resurrection provided the legal basis for forgiveness, redemption and reconciliation

We are now members of His Family/Household

□ Household = ‘A relational and economic unit’

- Parents, children, grandparents, servants, adoptees, relatives, etc

□ No longer aliens – now fellow citizens

□ We belong to His Household, His Family

We have privileges in Gods Family/Household

- Access to our Father
- Access to the family resources

We have responsibilities in Gods Family/Household

- Maintain and build healthy relationships
- Contribute to the household – the family business

We have opportunities in Gods Family/Household

- Seize the limitless opportunities as members of the household

V:20-21. ...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

We are members of Christs Household