Family Matters

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INTRODUCTION

- Of all the metaphors in Scripture to describe this, family is by far the most common.
- We have God as our father, Christ as our elder brother, and one another as our spiritual brothers and sisters in Christ.
- When the scriptures speak of the church as a family, it speaks in the ideal.

1 This Family Gives Us a Sense of Belonging

Romans 8:14–17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14–15

- First of all, this family gives us a sense of belonging.
- You don't get to pick your family means that regardless, you have family.
- For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the spirit of adoption, by whom you cry out, Abba, Father.
- Think of the idea of adoption, that special meaning that this was not by accident, it was by choice, that we have been adopted as children of God.
- Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.
- Now, has the relationship changed? Yes. But what has not changed is that they're family.

2 It Gives Us a Network of Support

John 19:26–27

- Another thing that this family gives us, it gives us a network of support.
- When a need arises, we have family. When heartbreak appears, we have family. When times of rejoicing come, we have family.
- He said to his mother, Behold your son. Then he said to the disciple, again, John, behold your mother. And from that hour, that disciple took her to his own home.
- That's what physical family should do. That's what spiritual family should do.
- These references, the brothers and sisters in the family, aren't just a cute way of describing us. They have meaning.
- Family gives that sense of a network of support that no matter what, we have somebody on whom we can call and on whom we can rely.

3 It Gives Us a Purpose in Life

Acts 4:32

- Another thing family does for us, or should do for us, it gives us a purpose in life.
- There are three grand essentials to happiness in life: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.

- Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and of one soul. Neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.
- Just as meaningful is the idea that you can be that person who is needed, and who offers that support.
- We'll pull up another chair to the dinner table. We'll add another name to our prayer list.
- The church is not some man-made society that we can participate in or opt out of, these things don't obligate us to sacrifice when things get tough. But family does.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **To show up at more of the family reunions, and to feel a greater sense of belonging and a greater purpose in your life by seeing to the needs of your family.**

MY NOTES