We Are Family

Ken Chapman

INTRODUCTION

- For 2023, the shepherds have decided on a new theme, and that theme is simply we are family.
- But more importantly than just focusing on that and basking in that, we want to talk about what does that mean.
- Family means everything to us, doesn't it? Family is our focus.

1 Family Is Life

Genesis 1

- First of all, family's life. That kind of almost fits within the definition of the parameters of family.
- It was God's plan that the family be the givers of life.
- Family is where you received your life from your mother and father, and family is where you give life to others.

2 Family Is Love

- Whether you had a good family or a bad family, we're both blessed in having this spiritual family.
- But family is to be, when it's done right, is to be a place for love. Unconditional love.
- A family that would love you even when you make those bad mistakes and the wrong choices.
- They may not support you in those wrong choices, but they love you still.

3 Family Is to Be About Growth

- Family is to be about growth. Again, done right, family is where growth and nourishment take place.
- Family is a place for training. And that even involves discipline sometimes.
- Family's a place of growth for children. But family is also a place of growth for the parents.

4 This Family Is Life

John 1:1–13

- More than any other, Scripture speaks of this relationship, this group of people as family.
- Encompassing all of that is the fact that our relationship to God is all about life. He is our Father. Because a Father gives life.
- But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to be children of God to those who believe in his name.
- In its most basic fundamental sense, that's what family does. It produces life.

5 This Family Is Love

1 Peter 1:22

- It can replace a non existent good loving family. It can supplement a good loving family. But it's to be about love.
- Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren. Love one another fervently with a pure heart.
- The New Testament unapologetically tells me that family takes priority when it comes to love.
- We love all of mankind. Everyone is our neighbor. We even love our enemies. But we make no apologies in showing priority to family.

6 This Spiritual Family Should Be About Growth

Ephesians 4:16

- This spiritual family is growth. And it should be about growth.
- We should be alarmed if we or someone else in our family is not growing as they should.
- The whole body joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- If we're not growing, if you're not growing, if I'm not growing, to some degree we're doing family wrong.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you start this new year with the greatest blessing of a new year by becoming a part of God's family, being one of his children?**

MY NOTES