

BECOMING PART OF GODS FAMILY

PART I

The key element of becoming part of the family of God is that you now have God Himself as your Father.

He adopted you

Before accepting Jesus into your heart you were an orphan. You may have had an earthly father but in the spirit realm, you were orphaned. God saw you in that state and because of His great love for you, He reached out to you offering to adopt you into His family so that He would become your Father. By His grace, you said yes to Him and became a child of God. You are no longer an orphan, wandering in the wilderness but He has placed you into His family with all the rights of a son and daughter. You now belong legally to Him and have a wonderful inheritance assigned to you. You also have a multitude of new brothers and sisters (a family) who will love you and be concerned about your welfare.

*He predestined us for **adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:5-6*

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, **he gave the right to become children of God**, John 1:12*

He loves you

One of the most amazing things about having God as our Father is how intensely He loves you. God does not just give a little love. He gives lavishly all that He has so that you can experience a love that you never experienced before. The Bible says that His love for us

surpasses knowledge...meaning we can't even understand the fullness of His love. It is more than our minds can comprehend. God is love, so to understand the fullness of His love we would have to understand the fullness of God Himself, which is beyond our human ability. You may not be able to understand it but He has made a way for you to experience it. He has given you His Spirit so that you can experience Him. You need to be able to accept His love to experience it. His love surrounds you, you just have to receive it.

*For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but **my steadfast love** shall not depart from you, Isaiah 54:10*

*hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love** has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:5*

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the **great love** with which **he loved us**, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved Ephesians 2:4-5*

He forgives you

Many of you may be suffering from the guilt of having done something wrong, something you know was not right before God. You begin to feel like a failure. If you continue having those thoughts, you then begin to assign the attitude of failure or unworthiness to your identity. You find yourself walking around discouraged or depressed because of your lack of "self-control". You feel you have disappointed God and others. You do not have to live in this unholy state. Your loving Father has made a way for you to be free from guilt and shame. You have a Father who forgives you. When you fall, as we all do, God has made a way for us to cleanse ourselves again. It is called confession. When we truly confess and repent of our wrongs we are immediately forgiven by our Father. He does not hold it against us. He desires us to walk in freedom from guilt and shame. And just like salvation,

we must just receive forgiveness by faith. We can do this because we understand the nature of God, that He is loving and faithful to all His family. You are His family!

*If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive us** our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

*For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and **I will remember their sins no more.**
Hebrews 8:12*

*To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him **receives forgiveness of sins** through his name. Acts 10:43*

*Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as **white as snow**; though they are red like crimson, they shall become **like wool.**
Isaiah 1:18*

He watches over you

You can take comfort in the fact that your heavenly Father is always watching over you. This is why you have no need to fear. His eye is always upon you. Think of a natural father who has very young children. He is always being watchful over them. He knows that they are capable of getting themselves in trouble if left on their own, so his watchful eye is always looking out for them. How much more will your heavenly Father watch over you.

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with **my eye upon you.** Psalms 32:8*

*The **angel of the LORD** encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them Psalms 34:7*

*I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “**The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?**” Hebrews 13:5-6*

*The LORD will **keep you from all evil**; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Psalms 121:7-8*

He keeps His promises

GOD PROMISES TO STRENGTHEN YOU:

*“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you **to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.**” (Ephesians 3:14-16)*

GOD PROMISES TO GIVE YOU REST.

*“ Then Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I **will give you rest.** Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and **you will find rest** for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.’” (Matthew 11:28-30 NLT)*

GOD PROMISES TO TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR NEEDS.

*“And this same God who takes care of me **will supply all your needs** from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19 NLT)*

GOD PROMISES TO ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS

*“Ask, and **it will be given** to you; seek, and **you will find**; knock, and **it will be opened** to you.” (Matthew 7:7)*

GOD PROMISES TO WORK EVERYTHING OUT FOR GOOD

*“And we know that God causes **everything to work together for the good** of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” (Romans 8:28 NLT)*

GOD PROMISES THAT NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM HIM.

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39 ESV)

He disciplines you for your good

When you were a child, it's likely that you didn't get too excited about your parents disciplining you. Likewise, if you're a parent, I can just about guarantee that some of the most unpleasant moments of your experience with raising children have involved discipline. But the truth is, when you're seeking to shepherd a young life, the enforcement of discipline is actually evidence of love.

GOD WANTS TO PROTECT US – not so much from the bad things that can happen to us, but the bad attitudes and habits we can develop within our own heart, soul, and mind! God knows how we can get swept up into an ungodly and unhealthy culture characterized by anger, bitterness, cravings and desires, envy, fear, greed, and hatred.

GOD WANTS TO CORRECT US – before we start sinking in a quicksand of bad attitudes and habits that get worse and worse. We read in Proverbs 29:15: “A rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a youth led to himself is a disgrace to his mother.” In other words, someone who is spoiled rotten gets into rotten mischief.

GOD WANTS TO INSTRUCT US in how to cultivate good and godly attitudes and habits.

For they (our earthly fathers) disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. Hebrews 12:10

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent Revelation 3:19

He gives us an inheritance

To be part of the family of God means having an eternal inheritance. Unlike a temporal material inheritance that some children receive from their natural parents, believers in Christ will receive an imperishable, unfading, eternal inheritance from their Father in heaven.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to **an inheritance that is imperishable, un-defiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you** 1 Peter 1:3-4*

*giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in **the inheritance of the saints in light**. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son Colossians 1:12-13*

The crown jewel of this inheritance will be the eternal delight of dwelling in the presence of and in loving fellowship with the Lamb of God, the Light of this World Jesus Christ (Revelation 21:22-23).

PART II

Brothers and Sisters

To be part of God's family means having a large and loving family. God established believers to be connected in a powerful way as a family. To say that we are a church family implies the significant spiritual bond between believers and the way we walk with one another through life, encouraging, supporting, and loving each other.

Loving our brothers and sisters displays how we love our Father in heaven.

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:20-21

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? James 2:15-16

The 59 "One Anothers" of the New Testament

These are behaviors we may do out of an overflow of our relationship with Jesus, but they are not things that we do solely unto Jesus. Other people must be involved to fulfill them.

1. *"...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)*
2. *"...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)*
3. *"...Love one another..." (John 13:34)*
4. *"...Love one another..." (John 13:34)*
5. *"...Love one another..." (John 13:35)*
6. *"...Love one another..." (John 15:12)*
7. *"...Love one another" (John 15:17)*
8. *"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)*
9. *"...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)*

10. *"Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)*
11. *"...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)*
12. *"...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)*
13. *"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)*
14. *"...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)*
15. *"Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)*
16. *"...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)*
17. *"...Have equal concern for each other." (I Corinthians 12:25)*
18. *"...Greet one another with a holy kiss." (I Corinthians 16:20)*
19. *"Greet one another with a holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12)*
20. *"...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)*
21. *"If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other."
(Galatians 5:15)*
22. *"Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Galatians 5:26)*
23. *"Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)*
24. *"...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)*
25. *"Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)*
26. *"...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)*
27. *"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." (Ephesians 5:19)*
28. *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)*
29. *"...In humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)*
30. *"Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9)*
31. *"Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)*

32. *"...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:13)*
33. *"Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)*
34. *"...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)*
35. *"...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)*
36. *"...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)*
37. *"...Encourage each other..."(I Thessalonians 4:18)*
38. *"...Encourage each other..." I Thessalonians 5:11)*
39. *"...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)*
40. *"Encourage one another daily..." Hebrews 3:13)*
41. *"...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)*
42. *"...Encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)*
43. *"...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)*
44. *"Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)*
45. *"Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)*
46. *"...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)*
47. *"...Love one another deeply, from the heart." (I Peter 3:8)*
48. *"...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)*
49. *"...Love each other deeply..." (I Peter 4:8)*
50. *"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4:9)*
51. *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (I Peter 4:10)*
52. *"...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..."(I Peter 5:5)*
53. *"Greet one another with a kiss of love." (I Peter 5:14)*

54. "...Love one another." (I John 3:11)

55. "...Love one another." (I John 3:23)

56. "...Love one another." (I John 4:7)

57. "...Love one another." (I John 4:11)

58. "...Love one another." (I John 4:12)

59. "...Love one another." (II John 5)