

We Are Family

(Matthew 12:47-50)

- Introduction:
1. In the late 1979, "Sister Sledge" had a number one hit entitled, "We Are Family."
 2. That song was then "adopted" by the Pittsburgh Pirates as they used that song to rally behind, winning the World Series that same season.
 3. What the song reminded people of is the truth that we don't have to be flesh and blood to be family.
 4. For many, today is a day of family celebration, and yet for others, it is a painful reminder of loss.
 5. But for the child of God, whether you have flesh and blood family or not, we can celebrate family; God's family.

I. The Church is The Family of God

- A. When I was baptized, my dad said, "You're not just my son anymore, you're my brother."
- B. When we were baptized into Christ, we come up out of the water as members of a different family, and sons and daughters of a different Father.
- C. While the church is likened to several things, it is likened to a family.
 1. We are born into it (John 3:3,5).
 2. We are adopted (Ephesians 1:5).
 3. We are part of the household (Ephesians 2:19).
- D. While we should value the fact that the church is a family, we must be careful that our message doesn't morph into "our church is for families."

II. The Privilege and Duty of Family

- A. Unconditional Love.
 1. (Galatians 6:1-2).
 2. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).
- B. Grace & Patience.
 1. (1 Corinthians 12:26).
 2. (Romans 12:10,15).
- C. Correction and Discipline.
 1. (Revelation 2:14-15; 20).
 2. (1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:1-9)
- D. Inheritance.
 1. (Gal. 3:28-29).
 2. (Ephesians 1:11).
 3. (Colossians 3:24).
 4. (1 Peter 1:4).

- Conclusion:
1. While it goes without saying, God knew what he was doing when he made the family.
 2. Consequently, the Christian has been doubly blessed.