

We Be Brethren

Introduction: There is within every one of us an incessant need to belong. To belong to a loving family fills a most tremendous need we have within and makes us more secure in our existence and self-worth. What is it to be brothers and sisters in Christ.

I. JESUS CLARIFIES “FAMILY”

- A. Matthew 12:46-50. Jesus calls on us to rethink our concepts of family. Water is thicker than blood.
- B. Luke 14:26 ff. Family ties.
- C. Matthew 23:5-12. Status in the family.

II. WHEN YOU'RE FAMILY

- A. You have responsibilities toward the rest of family. “One another” is the emphasis in scripture. (Rom. 14:13; 15:7; 1 Cor. 16:20; Gal. 5:13; 1 Cor. 12:25;
- B. You take advantage of the opportunities to do good to everyone who belongs to the “household of faith.” (Gal. 6:10) Good intentions really are hidden love.
- C. Forgiveness prevails over the faults of other family members. There's no room for grudges, the Father won't have it. (Mt. 6:15)
- D. You're never alone. (Rom. 12:15; 1 Thess. 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:9)
- E. Attitude toward each other makes a big difference. (Phil. 4:1)

III. WHEN FAMILY LETS YOU DOWN

- A. There are a number of ways this spiritual family will not live up to your expectations, because, while God is perfect in His supply of love, this family consists of forgiven people, not flawless people.
- B. Running away is never the answer.
- C. Stop blaming and start aiming. (2 Cor. 13:11, ESV; 1 Cor. 6:1)

Conclusion: Making God's family your family in the way we treat his family effects our relationship with Him. (Cf. Matt. 25:40)