

We are the Family of God

In an age when culture pressures us to think in terms of “us vs. them,” reflecting on the Church as God’s family helps us understand God’s point of view and how we should relate to people in our neighborhoods, communities, and those at the margins of our social and geographical networks. Remembering that we, as believers, are members of the family of God encourages us toward reconciliation and reminds us that together we are restored to oneness with God through Jesus Christ. Studying the scriptures that depict this image assures us of the Father’s great love for us and our brothers and sisters in Christ, and helps us live into our place in God’s family as co-heirs with Christ.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we’ll cover in the episode.

- What does it mean to be a family? What are the qualities of a family that make humans long to be part of one?
- Have you ever been estranged from someone? Why? What led to the estrangement and how did it make you feel? If you’ve reconciled, what did it take to reconcile the relationship?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [We are the Family of God](#)

READ [Acts 17:24-28](#), [Ephesians 2:11-18](#), [Romans 8:14-17, 31-35](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Write down the names of four people: two who delight you or make your life easier, and two who frustrate you or make your life difficult. Spend some time reflecting on each of the individuals and your relationship with them. Challenge yourself to identify at least one way each of these individuals reflects the image of God to you.
- Look at the dictionary definitions of “[reconcile](#).” Which definition do you think best describes the work Christ has done to reconcile believers with God? Why? Do any of these definitions change your perspective about reconciliation?
- Think about the family of God locally, nationally, and internationally. What dividing walls have we created that we need to allow the blood of Jesus to break down?
- How does the world identify you? Read [Romans 8:14-17, 31-35](#). Based on this passage, who does God say you are? How can you remind yourself of your identity as God’s beloved child when the labels and identities of the world cause doubt to creep in?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 12:46-49](#), [Luke 14:25-27](#), [Genesis 12:1-3](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on what you learned while studying this image of the Church as the family of God. Write down one way this image has encouraged your faith and one way it has challenged your faith. Then spend some time in prayer. Thank God for the gift of his Son, for the mighty work of reconciling us to himself by the blood of Jesus Christ. Confess any ways you've hurt God by hurting his family. Petition him for wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to see the image of God in all people and in dismantling any dividing walls created in the family of God. Ask for his strength to endure any suffering for his name, so that you can share in the crown of glory with Jesus Christ, just as he promised.

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