

Upcoming Events

Business Meeting: May 3 (Rescheduled)
Mother's Day: May 10
Ladies Bible Class: May 17 (Rescheduled)
Mid-course Review: Saturday Meeting 2021
Memorial Day: May 25
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: TBD

What some Common People say about Family

"To us, family means putting your arms around each other and being there." – Barbara Bush

"Family is not an important thing, it's everything."
– Michael J. Fox

"The only rock I know that stays steady, the only institution I know that works, is the family." – Lee Iacocca

May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff 15 Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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We Are Family

By Dan Jenkins

"Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name YAH, and rejoice before Him. A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families" (Psalms 68:4-6). Such an amazing thought! God's plan is for those He loves and protects to find a place within a family.

It has always been His nature and desire. When He created Adam and saw that it was not good for man to be alone, He put the first man and woman in a family. Cain and Abel were part of that family. God knew that mankind needed families.

The words from the psalmist give us such insight into how He fulfills the needs we have. David specifically mentioned the fatherless and widows and became so much more inclusive when he added the solitary. God puts those who have no family into other families.

So, it should not surprise us that when His master plan for mankind is revealed in the New Testament that the church is described as a FAMILY. Men in that first testament did not begin their prayers saying, "Our Father," but we can! If He is our Father, then all those in the FAMILY are brothers and sisters! We are FAMILY!

That disciple whom Jesus loved said, *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called children of God"* (1 John 3:1). We are FAMILY! Paul adds that because we are children of God, we are joint heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:17). He is our brother, and we are FAMILY. Solomon described that there could be in our lives someone closer to us than our

physical brother. *“There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother”* (Proverbs 18:24). It is in the church, the body of Jesus, the FAMILY of God, where this concept finds its ultimate fulfillment. We are FAMILY.

The spiritual growth of the body of Christ shows that we should add Christian character to our faith. Peter said that to our faith we should add brotherly kindness (2 Peter 1:5-7), and Hebrews 13:1 urges, *“Let brotherly love continue.”* We are to *“...Love the brotherhood”* (1 Peter 2:17). We are brothers; we are FAMILY.

Like earthly families sometimes have problems, so does His spiritual FAMILY. But God’s FAMILY is different in that it seeks to work through these differences. Brothers and sisters in Christ long to be at one with every other brother and sister. We try to go beyond expectation of onlooker to become one in the Lord. We do this because we are FAMILY.

God has a plan for each of us to have those in our lives who are closer than our physical family. Let’s work together to be one because we are FAMILY

The Most Difficult Command

By Joe Chesser

What do you think is the most difficult command God has given us? I’m sure you could think of many options. I’m guessing the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 thought selling all his property and giving it to the poor was the most difficult thing God expected. And that would be tough, wouldn’t it? Others might think the command in Luke 9:23 to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus might be the most difficult thing to do. What about the command to make every effort to live at peace with all men (Hebrews 12:14)? All men? Really? That is challenging.

To decide which command God has given is the most difficult of all may not be possible, or even necessary. But this question came

to my mind when I read 1 Corinthians 16:14: *“Let all that you do be done in love.”* Now, that’s a tall order!

This is not a difficult command because it is hard to understand. It’s a pretty simple statement. Do everything in love. We’d need help to misunderstand this. No, what makes this so challenging is that it is so unnatural for us. We do not naturally love like God does, especially in everything we do. God’s love is agape love, meaning that love is constantly looking for a way to do good to others regardless of how that love is received or returned. God is the epitome of *“Let all that you do be done in love.”* And through His transforming power, that is what we can become, but it goes against our human nature. Our love is often inconsistent. Our love is often conditional. Our love is often biased. Our love is often selfish.

It’s not natural for husbands and wives to treat each other with love all day every day. It’s not natural for parents to be 100% loving to their children all the time. It’s not natural for us to always be loving towards our neighbors or co-workers or even our friends. It’s not natural for us to do everything in love when in traffic or at ball games or in politics. It’s not natural for us to love the lost so much we will sacrifice our time, money and energy in taking the gospel to the whole world.

It’s not natural. It’s very difficult. But it is possible. I know it’s possible because that’s what God says He expects of us. That’s why He taught us that the greatest command is to love Him with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and the second greatest command is to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). That’s why it was necessary for Jesus to become flesh and go to the cross ... so that we could witness love in action. That’s why God gave His powerful, active word (Hebrews 4:12) that can transform our minds to become like Him (Romans 12:2).

Doing everything in love is a most difficult command. But it is possible!