

CALLED INTO A FAMILY

Mark 3:7-35

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: A family shares things, dreams, hopes, possessions, memories, smiles, etc. A family is a small group held together by love and respect of one another. A family is a shelter from bad events, a place of rest when things are rough. Nobody is ever alone who has a family. Yet there is an opposite to a family as well and that is the family has the potential to hurt its members the most. Divorce, verbal, physical abuse, abandonment, neglect, etc. can bring the most hurt to a family member. Jesus encountered trouble with His "family" even to the point of one of His family members betraying Him and some of the others running away, leaving Him. The Christian becomes a member of the family of God upon his/her belief in Jesus Christ and being a member of the family of God brings responsibilities to each member.

I. BELIEVERS ARE CALLED INTO GOD'S FAMILY

1. *Mark 3:7-19*
2. After much teaching, preaching, healing and ministering to so many and the religious authorities beginning to try to bring Him down, Jesus selects a few from the large group who were following Him.
 - Jesus renames some of His chosen few. (Peter, James, John)
 - Whenever a child is born into a family, he/she is given a name.
 - When a person believes in Jesus, he/she is born into God's family and is given a "new" name by God.
3. Jesus called for His "disciples" to go with Him.
 - A new born child stays with his/her family until entering adulthood.
 - New born children are taught, trained and prepared for their own separate lives.
 - Jesus also taught, trained and prepared His chosen "disciples" for ministry.
 - So it is with every believer, he/she is indwelt with the Holy Spirit to be equipped to be of service to the Lord Jesus.
4. The ones chosen by Jesus were trained and prepared for ministry and then Jesus sent them out.
 - Children are born, named, with their family until adulthood and then sent out into life.
 - Believers follow the same pattern.
 - They are born into a family, renamed, trained, prepared, equipped and then when ready are sent out into the world to minister for the Lord.
 - Are YOU accomplishing the ministry the Lord wanted you to do?
 - Are you one of those who wants to "stay at home" and "not go out" as so many children are doing?
 - Adults but still living at home, never going out on their own, never doing anything their family taught, trained, equipped them to do?
 - Are YOU one of those who have never left "home"?
5. Every believer has been born into God's Family, has received a new name, has been indwelt by the Holy Spirit, given a ministry (task), equipped to perform that ministry and has been given an assignment.

II. BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO STAND TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

1. *Mark 3:20-30*
2. Jesus received criticism from the religious leaders and from HIS OWN FAMILY.
 - Jesus had problems within His own family.
 - Jesus had problems outside His own family.
 - Jesus is falsely accused by His family of being insane
 - Jesus is falsely accused by the religious leaders as being of Satan.
3. A family must stand together and support one another.
 - Wherever there is division, whether a house or whatever, none will be able to stand.
 - Families must stick together, if nothing else, stay together.
4. Here are some suggested rules for believers in God's Family:
 - Obey the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Love, honor and pray for one another.
 - Always speak the truth.
 - Consider one another's interest ahead of your own.
 - Speak quietly and respectfully of one another.
 - Do not hurt another with unkind words or deeds.
 - When correction is needed, do so in love.
 - When one says "I'm sorry" forgive that person.
 - When one is sad, comfort that person.
 - When one is happy, be happy with him/her.
 - When one has something nice to share, share it.
 - When there is work to do, do it without complaining.
 - Take good care of everything God has given you.
 - Do not cause unnecessary work for others.
 - If you open something, close it when done.
 - If you turn something on, turn it off when done.
 - When you take something out, put it back when done.
 - If you make a mess, clean it up.
 - When you don't know what to do, simply ask someone.
 - When you go out, act like you are at home.

III. BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN CALLED TO OBEDIENCE WITHIN THE FAMILY

1. *Mark 3:31-35*
2. Jesus pointed out that there is something besides flesh and blood that makes up a family.
 - Jesus' mother, Mary, was His flesh and blood family member.
 - After becoming a follower of her son, there was a much stronger bond between Mary and Jesus.
 - Who is a believer's true family?
 - Those who believe in Jesus, follow Him in word and deed.
 - Those who do the will of God.
 - Actions speak louder than words.
3. As members of the family of God, believers have been called to obedience within the FAMILY.

CONCLUSION:

1. What happens to pets who are allowed to run free?
 - The same thing happens to family members who have no guidance, training, no family security.
2. Jesus is the "leash," the guide for every believer.
 - Believers are to obey Jesus and every time they don't, they get into trouble.
 - What does it take for a believer to be able to walk in obedience at the side of Jesus?
3. Believers in Jesus Christ are members of a family, God's Family.
 - They are reborn.
 - They are given a new name.
 - They are indwelt with the Holy Spirit.
 - They are given a ministry.
 - They are equipped for that ministry.
 - They are given an assignment to carry out their ministry.
 - They are to treat other believers as equal family members.
 - They are to study God's Word and to do what the Holy Spirit leads them to do.
 - They are to give the Lord Jesus the honor and glory for all the good that they do.
4. Are YOU a member of God's Family?