

## Series: Connected #4

**Message Title:** The Family Connection Protection Plan

**Message & Scripture Highlights:**

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

**Ephesians 1:4-5**

He chose us in Christ [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy [that is, consecrated, set apart for Him] and blameless in His sight, before Him in love,

<sup>5</sup> He predestined and lovingly planned for us to be adopted to Himself as [His own] children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the kind intention and good pleasure of His will—

**John 14:6**

I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no man comes to Father except by Me.

**John 14:13-15**

And I will do whatever you ask in My Name, so that the Father may be glorified *and* extolled in (through) the Son.

<sup>14</sup> [Yes] I will grant whatever you shall ask in My Name.

<sup>15</sup> If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

Discussion Part 1:

Share your perception of Jesus. In your conscious mind is He The reigning King, or do you have a different role you prefer Him in? Articulate as best you can the difference between a worldview of a religious Jesus, and the Kingdom of God Jesus.

S.Marshall thoughts:

This may seem like a subtle preference regarding point of view, but the Truth of this discussion differentiates between the real Jesus, and a powerless, unbiblical fraud. As I have said many times, to hold the King in contempt of His Kingdom is to basically reduce Him to a man in exile. That is NOT the Lord Jesus!

Have someone read:

**Hebrews 2:11**

Both Jesus who sanctifies and those who are sanctified [that is, spiritually transformed, made holy, and set apart for God's purpose] are all from one Father; for this reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,

**Malachi 4:6**

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers [a reconciliation produced by repentance], so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse [of complete destruction].”

### Discussion Part 2:

Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters. Is it more manageable to pull Jesus into our familiar connections, than to change our thinking to adjust to His family connection ... His Kingdom connection? Where do the benefits manifest? Speak from experience and be honest ... where do the Kingdom benefits manifest?

### Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

Life writes a code of experience into your mind. This is why Paul wrote to the Romans in 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds ...”. I used to naively think that getting saved brought on transformation and you suddenly live righteous. Have any of you got saved and then without any pursuit of God’s Word, suddenly just started thinking in align with God? Me either! I need my mind renewed - reprogrammed to God’s Kingdom algorithms. It doesn’t happen naturally or automatically. You must apply; study.

### **Life Application:**

Right now find at least 4 times Jesus talked about The Kingdom - the Kingdom of God OR The Kingdom of Heaven OR “My Kingdom”. They really are all the same except for some distinctions between what is present and what is to come. Take the four references and each of you, as homework, try and extract what you understand to be the benefits of being inside His realm. Each day in your prayers ask God, “Am I really pursuing Your Kingdom first?” Journal on this for one whole week. Then compare notes next LG meeting.

### **Now Pray The Word:**

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

*“Our Father Who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Yes the family Name is Holy, perfect, and above every name that is named throughout eternity. Father God Your Name is royalty to the surpassing degree of all power, authority, and greatness. You have given us Your Name, and chose us in Christ, making us holy, set apart, blameless, and fully loved as children in Your family. We honor Your Name when we make requests based on Your Word. Enlighten the eyes of our heart to see the rich, unlimited, unfailing hope to which You’ve called us to. (Continue to pray protection and divine leading for one another ...).*