

Biblical Pillars for a Family Foundation

Pillar Ten: Church as Family

So, then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and are of God's household (family). Eph. 2:19

The Church: A Family, a Fellowship, and the Body of Jesus Christ

- **The Church is a Family:**

Romans 8:15–17 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” 16The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

Galatians 4:3–7 So also, we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. 4But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Adoption n. — a legal proceeding that creates a parent-child relation between persons not related by blood; with the adopted child being entitled to all privileges belonging to a natural child (including the right to inherit).¹

Think about it. If you're an orphan, you don't adopt parents; they adopt you. If your adoptive parents are named Smith, you now attend the Smith family dinners with the parents and all the children. You share a bedroom at night with the Smith siblings. When the teacher at school calls out attendance and says, "Smith?" you raise your hand like your older brother did before you and your younger sister will do after you. And you do this not because you decided to play the role of "Smith," but because someone went to the orphanage and said, "You will be a Smith." On that day, you became the child of someone and the sibling of others.

Only your name's not Smith. It's Christian, named after the one through whom you were adopted, Christ. Now you're part of the whole family of God.² *"The one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family" Hebrews 2:11; John 20:17*

Trevor Burke on God's adoption:

- **The Church is a Fellowship:**
 - It's a fellowship. God "called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" **I Cor 1:9**
 - He also called you into "fellowship" with the whole family. **I John 1:3, 7**
 - **Acts 2:42**
 - **Romans 1:12**
 - **Hebrews 10:24-25**

¹ Logos Bible Software.

² Mark Dever 9marks ministries.

- **The Church is a Body**
 - We are members of His body **Ephesians 5:30**
 - **Col 1:18, 24**
 - **Romans 12:4-5**
 - **I Cor 12:13**

- **As children in God's family and Christ's body we need to help one another grow!**
 - **Ephesians 4:11-16**
 - Living one another commands in fellowship and relationship.
 - We need each other!
 - One way we are to help each other grow is by "counseling/admonishing one another."
 - We need to counsel one another with God's Word.
 - What does God say about _____?
 - **Danger! Doing life on our own.**

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way *which seems* right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 18:1 He who separates himself seeks *his own* desire; He quarrels against all sound wisdom.

- Psalm 119:24 and Psalm 73:24
- Col 3:16 and Romans 15:14
 - Every believer ministry
 - Not for the select few.
 - We all give advice. The question is what advice do we give?
Ours? Or God's?
- Becoming competent to instruct in our relationships through one another ministry is the call.

How would you counsel or advise in these situations? How can you help other believers with Gods Word? What does God say about these situations?

Kids dishonoring their parents: How would you help these parents with words of wisdom from God's Word?

1. Trying to their child's coat on and they scream in rebellion.
2. They tell their child they cannot go to their friend's house. They whine and beg and plead... they might even threaten.
3. They tell their teenager to be home at a reasonable hour, and they stomp their foot, loudly insist that their parents are unfair, and roll their eyes.

Believers are struggling with different issues:

1. Your good friend is growing bitter and holding a grudge against a sibling who talked bad about them behind their back.
2. A friend is losing their temper more frequently at work because of a difficult coworker.
3. Your sister/brother is discouraged and fearful because of a rebellious teenager.