

CHURCH FOR ALL GENERATIONS

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Ian Mann

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22, NLT)

- Believing involves belonging
- Church family is not optional

Christ And The Church Family

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. (Matthew 16:18, NLT)

- The church is His.
- He will build it.
- He will protect it.

If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector. (Matthew 18:17, NLT)

- Jesus assumes that we belong to a local church

God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. (Ephesians 1:22, NLT)

- Christ is the head of our church family!

Church Family And Our Families!

A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, "If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:25-26, NLT)

Our priority is Christ (Sinclair B. Ferguson)

- My family needs the church family for its own growth and health
- Christian parents are not in themselves adequate to rear their children for Christ – they were never meant to be!

Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. (Psalm 112:1-2 – NLT)

Father to the fatherless, defender of widows his is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families. (Psalm 68:5-6, NLT)

Our Church Family

- Recognises difference, promotes unity. (Galatians 3:26-28)
- Is a haven of truth and promotes Godly behaviour. (1 Timothy 3:14-15)
- Thinks of others first. (Philippians 2:3-4, Titus 2:3-4)
- Brings spiritual growth and mutual support. (Ephesians 4:14-16)
- Has an impact. (John 13:35)