

## **Foundations**

### **God's Family**

Ephesians 5:31-32

*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.* **Ephesians 5:31-32**

#### **God's Family is on Display in Two Ways:**

##### **I. The Meaning of Marriage**

*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."* **Ephesians 5:31**

*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."* **Genesis 2:24 (Moses)**

*"And said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.'" Matthew 19:5 (Jesus)*

*"We believe that Marriage unites one man and one woman in a lifetime of commitment to each other. Marriage provides for companionship, pure sexual expression, procreations, and reflects the relationship of Christ and the church."* **Salem Church Statement of Faith (Article 11)**

*"(Marriage is) a lifelong, monogamous relationship between a man and a woman. According to the bible, God devised marriage to reflect the saving love for us in Christ, to refine our character, to create stable human community for the birth and nurture of children, and to accomplish all this by bringing the complementary sexes into an enduring whole life union."* **Timothy Keller**

##### **II. The Mystery of the Church**

*"This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the Church."* **Ephesians 5:32**

*"We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed of only believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer."* **Salem Church Statement of Faith (Article 7)**

1) **Universal Church** - everyone, everywhere throughout history who has been saved by God's grace through a personal relationship with Jesus.

2) **Local Church** - a particular expression of the universal church in a community where members can fully apply the principles of scripture together.

*"And he put all things under his (Jesus') feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."* **Ephesians 1:22-23**

Church is a family to which we belong with its certain implications and expectations to be met:

- **Time** – We encourage faithful, weekly involvement with both corporate worship and groups.
- **Talent** – God has gifted each one in the family with specific gifts to be used in the context of the family.
- **Treasures** – Jesus says that our treasure will follow our heart into what matters most (Matthew 5). If you are a part of the church family, you will be financially invested in the church family.
- **Trust** – God's family is far from perfect, yet we are still to engage with one another in a spirit of trust and love.

*"...On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* **Matthew 16:18b**

#### **Main Idea: God's Family is Open to Anyone who Believes in Jesus**

Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe that he died on the cross to pay the price for your sins? Do you believe that he rose from the dead three days later? If so, then are you willing to turn from your sin and place your faith in Jesus to save you? If the answer is yes, then you can be in the family of God!

**The Lord's Supper:** As in the Welborn home, the table plays a major role in the family of God. Join us at the table today as we fellowship with one another and remember Jesus.

*"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

#### **God's Family Proclaims Jesus' Death & Resurrection at the Table!**

##### **Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *Theology for the Church* – Daniel L. Akin (2007)
- *Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* – Ronald F. Youngblood (1995)
- *Strong's Concordance* – James Strong (1890)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles Swindoll (1998)
- *Knowing God* – J.I. Packer (1973)
- *Doctrine* – Mark Driscoll (2010)
- *Gospel* – J.D. Greear (2011)
- *The Meaning of Marriage* – Timothy Keller (2011)

