

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of February 20, 2022 A.D.

Purpose #2 You Were Formed for God's Family

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Ephesians 1:3-6

1. Please discuss the implications of this statement in the context of verses 4-5: "A child can sometimes wonder if his biological parents really wanted him to be born. An adopted child can be certain that his adoptive parents wanted to have him as a child."
2. Read verse 5. Other than Jesus, does God have any "natural-born" human children? Was God pleased to adopt you into his family? How does it make you feel to know that you have been purposefully and deliberately chosen to be one of God's adopted children?
3. Read verse 4. "Holy" means "dedicated to God". "Blameless" means "without guilt". How does it make you feel to know that you are holy and blameless "in the sight of God"? In your daily activities, how does verse 4 make you feel about your personal interaction with (a) God and (b) other people?

Read John 1:10-13

4. In these verses, "He" and "him" refer to Jesus. How does a person become a child of God? What does it mean to "believe in the name of Jesus"? Are you a child of God? If so, how does it show in your daily actions?
5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Every human being was created by God; but, not everyone is a child of God."
6. Are all Christians children of God? Are all Christians in the same (a) physical family? and (b) spiritual family? Which of these two families is relationally the more important in the life of a Christian?

Read 1 John 4:7-13

7. Does God love all of His children? Does God expect all of His children to love each other? How does a child of God exhibit her love for (a) God and (b) God's children?

8. Read verse 13. Do all of God's children have the Holy Spirit of God alive within them? If so, then why do not all of God's children love each other in the same way and to the same degree?

9. Which is more important in your life: (a) your physical, earthly family or (b) your spiritual earthly family?

Read 1 John 3:1-3

10. Are Christians going to live forever? In verse 1, what does it mean "the world does not know us or Jesus"? In verse 3, what is the hope of all of God's children? How do God's children "purify themselves"?

Read 1 Peter 4:15-19

11. Are God's children free of suffering in this world? How should a Christian respond to unjust suffering (see verse 16)? Does God expect His children to always do good? Why? How?

Read Colossians 3:23-25

12. Does God expect His children to be excellent workers in all that they do regardless of the paycheck or the recognition? Why? Are you more excited about (a) the inheritance that God has for you in eternity because you are one of His children or (b) material wealth in this current world? Will all of God's children receive the identical eternal inheritance? If not, why not?

13. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Retirement is a foolish and short-sighted goal for a child of God. You should be living for eternal rewards."

Read Hebrews 2:11 and Matthew 12:46, 49-50

14. Is Jesus ashamed to call us his brothers and sisters and family? Does Jesus expect us to spend time (a) with Him together, (b) alone with Him, and/or (c) together with each other? Are you honored to be called a child of God?

Consider: You are a child of God! God loves you! Let that sink in! You and your life have deep, eternal meaning, purpose, and value because you belong to God – both now and forever. Now, go enjoy a milkshake. Amen.