



## Our Church, A Family (Part 5) Sunday April 24, 2005

1 Timothy 3:15

The local church is called the "household of God" or the family of God.

Review:

### **Section 1. The Church As A Family**

The house of God - A spiritual house

Jesus - The Master of the house

The nature of our relationship?

### **Section 2. Implications of the local church being a family**

A) A proper way to conduct yourself in the family

B) Boundaries between the natural and the spiritual

### **Section 3. Family Culture – Values, Purposes, Dreams**

Our Culture

Our Values

Our Purposes

Our Dreams

### **Section 4. Family Practices**

A) Brotherly love

B) Keeping the unity of the Spirit

C) Maintaining the fellowship of the Spirit

D) Respect Leaders Appointed in the house

E) Everyone works

F) Do good to those of the household of faith

G) Support the weak

H) Restore the fallen

### **Section 5. Family Roles & Relationships :**

Little Children, Sons & Daughters, Fathers & Mothers

Today:

### **Section 6 : Sons & Daughters**

#### **A) Are You A Son or Servant of the House?**

In every house of God there are visitors, servants, sons & daughters

Visitors: Folks who come to see, enjoy, share, etc. No commitment, no accountability.

John 8:35

And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

A servant mentality vs Son/Daughter mentality towards the house of God.



Servant	Son/Daughter
"I work here"	"I belong here"
"I serve in exchange for something (opportunity, prominence, position, visibility, recognition, launching into ministry, etc.) in return"	"I serve because this is my house"
"If I don't like it here, I'll find another job some where else"	"This is my home. I stay connected no matter what"
They do just the bare minimum	They often go the extra mile

## B) Moses was a servant, Christ is the Son

Hebrews 3:1-6

- 1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;
- 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.
- 3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.
- 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.
- 5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;
- 6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Even though the son and the servant are faithful, the son is worthy of more glory than the servant.

## C) Some additional characteristics of sons & daughters of the house

### 1. *Demonstrate Faithfulness*

Hebrews 3:2 Christ, as a Son over His own house – was faithful to the Father who appointed Him.

### 2. *Show evidence of sonship*

Philippians 2:19-22

- 19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.
- 20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.
- 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.
- 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

"likeminded" = "of similar spirit" (Strong's Dictionary)

Timothy worked alongside Paul at Philippi to raise up the church there. He served faithfully with Paul, so much so that Paul could refer to him as being "likeminded" and "as a son with the father". Timothy, later was launched into his own ministry, being appointed as the pastor of the church at Ephesus.



"for as a son honours, obeys, and imitates his father, so did he honour the apostle, and give him all respect and reverence that was due to him on account of his office, age, and usefulness; and obeyed his orders cheerfully, going wherever he sent him, and doing whatever he bid him; and imitated him in his ministry, in his constancy, diligence, and zeal, having a true filial affection for him." -John Gill's Exposition

As a church will release sons & daughters into the nation and the nations (we're not interested in sending servants!). Sons & daughters of the house are people who are likeminded, of the same spirit, who have served together with us in the Gospel. They carry the same "fire in their bosom", the same passion, the same intensity, the same tenacity, the same spirit of excellence. They have the same vision and carry the mantle/anointing on this house upon their lives.

Evidence of sonship:

- likemindedness, of similar spirit,
- proven character
- have co-labored in the Gospel

### ***3. Receive correction with a good spirit***

Hebrews 12:7-11

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. A son or daughter of the house will be able to receive correction from the house without being offended.

Lamentations 3:27

27 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

"It's a good thing when you're young to stick it out through the hard times." (Message Bible)

I invite you to move from being a visitor or a servant to becoming a son or daughter of this house!

### ***4. Honour fathers and mothers of the house***

**Noah and his sons - covering nakedness**

Genesis 9:18-27

18 And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.

19 These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.

20 And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard:



- 21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.  
 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.  
 23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.  
 24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.  
 25 And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.  
 26 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.  
 27 God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

The first man to discover wine, as far as we can tell, was Noah. Noah made a genuine mistake by drinking too much of the wine. There is no indication that he drank of the wine or got drunk again after this incident.

Genuine sons & daughters do not gossip, expose and publicize genuine mistakes that have been made inside the house.

Honest mistakes have to be forgiven, forgotten and covered. Continual sin has to be exposed and judged.

## Section 7 : Spiritual Fathering

We are using the term "fathering" in a gender independent way, i.e. is also includes "mothering".

1 John 2:12,13

The goal in our Christian growth is to go from being little children to becoming Fathers/Mothers.

1 Corinthians 4:14,15

The difference between spiritual teachers and spiritual fathers.

Spiritual Teacher/Instructor	Spiritual Father
Teach truths	Care for & help the individual
Formal interaction	Informal Interaction
Has curriculum, specific topics	All Aspects of Life
Learn from his Teaching	Learn from his Life Example, life to life, spirit to spirit.
Time for Teaching	Teaching from Everyday Life

In life, more things are "Caught" than "Taught".

### A) All Fatherhood flows from God

Ephesians 3:14,15

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,



God is the ultimate Father. All fatherhood flows from Him. As His children we flow in that same nature that moves us to be a "father"/ "mother" to others.

Malachi 4:5-6

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

It is interesting to note that when the heart of the fathers is not toward the children, and when the heart of the children is not toward their fathers – it opens the door to a curse.

Spiritual fathering is an extension of the Fatherhood of God.

## **B) Paul had spiritual sons/daughters**

2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

17 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Peter & John Mark

Peter considered John Mark to be his spiritual son 1 Peter 5:13

## **C) Who is a spiritual father/mother ?**

Sometimes we mistakenly think that the one who led us to faith in Christ is the one who is our spiritual father/mother. This may not always be true.

Anyone can procreate, but not everyone parents.



The one who parents – who nurtures and brings up the children into maturity – this person, is the real father/mother, in practical terms.

A father figure in a certain denomination/movement/organization/church may not necessarily be your spiritual father.

A person whose teachings you have imbibed through books/tapes/etc. may not necessarily be your spiritual father.

A true spiritual father/mother is one who has raised you up from immaturity to maturity.

#### D) Characteristics of a spiritual father/mother

Judges 5:7-9

7 The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.

8 They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

9 My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless ye the LORD.

A true spiritual father/mother is:

1. One who is involved in the life of their spiritual son/daughter
2. One who is able to correct, rebuke, discipline, guide their spiritual son/daughter. They are able to pass the surface and instruct the inner man, bringing adjustment and alignment.
3. One who goes beyond a casual relationship to a more meaningful relationship where they hold the spiritual son/daughter accountable for growth, conduct, ministry, etc. They are able to exercise a positive control (influence).
4. One who deals with your character more than your gifting. Has a true and sincere heart in building you as a person, not in just using your gift. **A gift is given from heaven, but character is built on earth. A gift is given freely but fruit is borne through diligence.**
5. One who does not mind that a spiritual son/daughter exceeds and goes beyond them. A true spiritual father/mother will NOT be like Saul who became jealous of David's accomplishments.
6. One who rescues you from the place of abandonment and gives you a spiritual home, giving you an identity, name and sonship in the house.
7. One that sees and understands your future and trains you for it and releases you into it at the right time.

There are no perfect fathers/mothers!!

Spiritual fathers/mothers can make mistakes, but a genuine father/mother will acknowledge that they made a mistake and correct their wrong.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>