

Ephesians 3:15 (NKJV) — 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, There is not a man or woman on earth who is not member of some “family.” The poorest as well as the richest all have their close ones, and can tell and speak of people around them their “family.”

We all know, family gatherings at special times of the year, such as Christmas, are very common. Thousands of tables are crowded at Christmas, more than any other time of the year. Perhaps The young man in the City takes a few days from business and runs down to his mother and father at home. The young woman in service, usually so buisy, gets a short holiday, and looks forward to her visit. Brothers and sisters meet for a few hours. Parents and children look one another in the face. It’s a pleasant time, there is so much to talk about! so many questions to be asked! How many interesting things to be told! So many memories talked about. Remember when this happened... How Happy indeed is that time when the ‘whole family’ is gathered around. This is good and right and pleasant. It does good to see them kept up. **They are one of the very few pleasant things which have survived the fall of man.** Next to the grace of God, there is nothing else that unites people so much in this sinful world as **family feeling**. Blood is a most powerful tie. It is good and it is wise to meet as a family at these special times like Christmas or other times. To gather as the whole family.

But sadly, as we gather, there is also sorrow, as gaps begin to appear. There are now empty seats around the table. Death makes sad havoc as time passes on. We may be glad to see everyone, but thoughts come to our minds of the empty seat, we recall words they used to say.

**There is one great family to which I want all to belong.** It is a family often despised by many, and not even known by some. **But it is a family of far more importance than any family on earth.** To belong to this family; grants a man far greater privileges than even to be the son of a king. It is the family that Paul speaks to the Ephesians, when he tells them of the “**whole family in heaven and earth.**” **It is the family of God.**

I want to tell you of the rich benefits which membership of this family carries. Oh that all would be in this family, when its gathering comes at last,—**a gathering without separation, or sorrow, or tears.**

I. First of all, *what is this family?*

II. Secondly, *what is its present position?*

III. Thirdly, *what are its future prospects.*

Let's look at these three things, let's not only look and forget but let there be serious consideration of them. Our family gatherings on earth must have an end one day. But we have a family in Heaven that has no end.

I. ***What is that family*** which the Bible calls “the whole family in heaven and earth”? **who is part of this family?**

The family is made up of all real Christians, —of all who have the Spirit,—of all true believers in Christ,—of the saints of every age, and Church, and nation, and tongue. The family is, the same as **the election of God**,<sup>1</sup>Thes 1:4. (you are beloved of the father)—**the household of faith**, — **the bride of Christ**, —**the living temple**,—**the sheep that never perish**,—**the Church of the first-born**. All these expressions are speaking of “**the family of God**” only using other names.

**To become part of this family**, does not depend on any earthly connection. You can't say my father is a pastor or my brother is a true servant of God. You can't say I was born into a Christian family. **It comes not by natural birth, but by new birth.**

No preacher can impart it to his hearers. Parents cannot give it to their children. You may be born in the godliest family in the land, you may even go to the best and most sound church in the whole land, and yet never belong to the family of God. (*You see Going to church cannot save you, no church can save you because no church died for you, only Jesus Christ died for you and only Jesus Christ can save you and adopt you into this family.*) **To belong to it you must be born again.** Only the Holy Ghost can make a living member of His family. Only He can draw the lost one, and soften hard hearts, open blind eyes, open deaf ears. They that are born again, as the scripture says, “*who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*” (John 1:13)

**Would you like to know why they are called “a family”?** Listen and I will tell you.

(a) True Christians are called “a family” because **they have all one Father**. They are all **children of God by faith in Christ Jesus**. They are all **born of one Spirit**. They are all sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. They have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby they cry, Abba Father. (Gal. 3:26; John 3:8; 2 Cor. 6:18; Rom. 8:15.)

(b) True Christians are called “a family,” because they all rejoice in one name. That name is the name of their great Head and Elder Brother, even **Jesus Christ the Lord**. As living members of Christ, we all, with one heart and one mind, rejoice in one Savior. The Lord Jesus is our only hope. To the believer “Christ is all.” His death on the cross means everything to them. So comforting and encouraging is the thought of Christ’s intercession for them at the right hand of God. Sweet is the thought of Christ’s coming again. In fact, you might as well take away the sun out of the sky, then take away the name of Jesus from believers. To the world His name means only little, or nothing. But to believers it is **full of comfort**, hope, joy, rest, and peace. **No wonder they are called “a family.”**

(c) True Christians, are called “a family” because there is a Strong *a family likeness* among them. **They are all led by one Spirit, they all hate sin and love God.** They all rest **their hope of salvation on Christ**, and have no confidence in themselves. They all endeavor to “come out and be separate” from the ways of the world, **and to set their affections on things above. They all turn naturally to the same Bible, as the only food of their souls and the only sure guide,** they find it a “lamp to their feet, and a light to their path.” (Psa. 119:105.) **They all go to the same throne of grace in prayer, and find it as needful to speak to God as to breathe.** They have all the same inward experience. Repentance, faith, hope, Love, humility, inward conflict, are things with which they are all more or less acquainted. **No wonder they are called “a family.”**

Before we move on to the next point understand that outside this family there is no salvation No Hope and no future. Only In Christ are we redeemed.

II. I will now pass on to the second thing. *What is the present position of the whole family in heaven and earth?*

Gods’ family is divided into two parts **each with a different residence**. Some are already **in glory in heaven**, but some are **right here on earth**. At the moment they are in separate places, **yet God sees them as one body**. It is only a matter of time that we shall all be together forever and forever. The little we know of the family in heaven, they have said good-bye for ever to poverty and anxiety, to pain and sickness, to sorrow and tears. **They are with Christ Himself**, who loved them and gave Himself for them, and in His presence is great Joy forever more.

**Some of God's family are still *upon earth*.** They are scattered all over in the midst of a wicked world, a few in one place and a few in another. All are more or less occupied in the same way, **All are running a race**, doing a work, warring a warfare, carrying a cross, striving against sin, resisting the devil, crucifying the flesh, struggling against the world, witnessing for Christ, hearing, reading, and praying. Often each one thinks, no cross is so heavy as theirs, no work so difficult, and hard. But somehow each and all hold on their way, and stand their ground they can't let go—a wonder to the ignorant world around them, and often a wonder to themselves.

But however divided God's family may be at present in dwelling-place and local habitation, **it is still one family**. Both parts of it are still one in character, one in possessions, and one in relation to God. **The part in heaven has not so much superiority over the part on earth** as at first sight may appear. Both parts of the family love the same Saviour, and delight in the same perfect will of God. Both parts of the family are all God's children. **But the children in heaven have learned all their lessons, have finished their appointed tasks, have begun an eternal holiday.**—The children on earth are still at school. Both parts of the family are alike God's soldiers. The Soldiers on earth are still fighting but those in heaven have fought the good fight and overcome they are victorious, and no one can hurt them now.

Both the family in **heaven and the family on earth is eternally secure** – there is no one that is able to snatch one out of His hand. Both are secure **by and everlasting covenant**. The family in heaven might be more happy but they are not more secure. **1 Peter 1:5 (NKJV) — 5** who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**III.** let's look at the last point - ***What are the future prospects of the whole family in heaven and earth?***

When we look at a natural family on earth there is so much, they just don't know, they don't even know what a day might bring forth. Prov 27:1 they have no idea where we will be in 20 years from now. They know not if a sudden sickness will come upon them or if they will even be alive. How little they can tell of things coming to them. Think how loved ones fall out with each other quarrelling over a few shillings which quickly turns a life-long quarrel, between those who, once played together, and grew up together.

**But how vastly different the 'Family of God.'** The future of the family of God is not uncertain. It is good, and only good, — happy, and only happy.

The members of God's family **will all be *brought safe home one day***. Here upon earth, they may be scattered tried, tossed with storms, and bowed down with afflictions. But not one of them shall perish. (John 10:28.) The weakest lamb shall not be left to perish in the wilderness: the feeblest child shall not be missing at the last day. In spite of the world, the flesh, and the devil, the whole family shall get home.

**The members of God's family *shall all have glorious bodies one day***. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes the second time, the dead saints shall all be raised and the living shall all be changed. They shall no longer have a body, full of weaknesses and infirmities: **they shall have a body like that of their risen Lord**, without the slightest hint of sickness and pain. when they want to serve God: they shall be able to serve Him night and day without weariness, and to attend upon Him without distraction.

Every Child of the Family of God will be cared for and provided for, not one will be overlooked. The smallest and least among us will be filled with grace, as well as the greatest, we all shall be filled to the brim with glory. We can not describe this glory It is a thing which **eye has not seen**, nor **mind of man conceived**. It is Enough for us to know that we shall see His face in righteousness, and be satisfied when I awake in His likeness. Psalm 17:15

Can we not exclaim, "*The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.*" (Psalms 16:6). Do we not say **My heart is full, and Joyful in my King**. As a Child in Gods Family we are so safe - "*who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation*" oh we are free, I was a prisoner but He set me free. Made me free from the Law of Sin and death. We are rich In Him, "possess all things and can boast of the unsearchable riches of Christ"? **Blessed are such a people; yes, blessed are the people whose God is the Lord.**

**Now remains just one question**, It's a very plain question but the most important question. Do we belong to the family of God? Don't just answer yes, I go to church, yes, I'm saved. There must be more there is more. Do you have eternal life. **What is eternal life?** This is Eternal life that **you may know Him**. Do you know the Comfort that comes to your soul by the bread of heaven. Is your thirst satisfied? Do you drink from the fountains of Living water. Do you know peace in your heart. Do you know peace along life's paths, do you know peace in the storms. Do you have peace while you

live and is there Hope when you die. To have this peace and hope you must be a *part of the family of God*.

**If you do not yet belong to God's family**, I invite you this day to join it without delay. **Open your eyes** to see the value of your soul, **the sinfulness of sin**, the holiness of God, the danger of your present condition, the absolute necessity of a mighty change.

As our eyes are now being opened look and see these things, and repent this very day. see Jesus Christ the great Head of God's family, waiting to save your soul. **See how He has loved you, lived for you, died for you, risen again for you, and paid for complete redemption for you.** See how **He offers you free, full, immediate pardon**, if you will believe in Him.

Look and see these things. Seek Christ at once. Come and believe on Him, Repent of your sin, and commit your soul to His keeping this very day. How sad when such a promises are ignored. Suppose a student was at university and had a huge student loan and knew it would take years to pay it off. Then although they don't deserve it - Someone comes along and says, I'll pay your debt. I'll give and provide for you a dwelling place and all you need. I'll watch over your progress and help you. What a wonderful promise that would be yet you ignore it you say I don't need any help. Would we not say that person is foolish... but how much greater is the foolishness when We ignore our spiritual condition – How foolish when He has paid our great debt of sin. How foolish when He offers a hope and a future. How foolish when we can be part of a loving and eternal family. And we ignore and make little of this great offer. Life Eternal offered, Adoption into the Family, of the King of all. Forgiveness of sin.

What must we do Believe the Gospel and repent of our sins and put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.