

**“We Are Family”**  
**The New Identity That Brings Us Together**  
**Mark 3:31-35**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Feb 19, 2017*

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**1. One thing is abundantly clear as you read through the New Testament—we are FAMILY.**

**A. The church is God’s house.**

Heb. 3:6                   <sup>6</sup> but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. **And we are his house,**...

1 Tim. 3:14,15           <sup>14</sup> ...I am writing these things to you so that,  
<sup>15</sup> if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in **the household of God, which is the church of the living God,**

**B. The church is the bride of Christ.**

Rev. 21:9                   <sup>9</sup> “Come, I will show you **the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.**”

2 Cor. 11:2               <sup>2</sup> For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I **betrothed you to one husband,** to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

**C. The church is the family of God.**

2 Cor. 6:18               <sup>18</sup> and I will be a **father** to you, and you shall be **sons and daughters** to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Eph. 2:19                   <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God,**

1 Tim. 5:1

<sup>1</sup> Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a **father**, younger men as **brothers**, <sup>2</sup> older women as **mothers**, younger women as **sisters**, in all purity.

**What about you?** How does the “family” metaphor impact the way you view your relationship with the Lord? How does it affect your perspective on relationships with others?

**2. You need to protect your spiritual identity by increasing your “CHRIST-ESTEEM,” seeing yourself as God sees you.**

A. You are His **perfect child**.

Eph. 1:4,5

<sup>4</sup> ...**holy and blameless before him**. In love <sup>5</sup> he **predestined us for adoption to himself as sons...**

B. You are **Jesus’ holy sibling**.

Heb. 2:11

<sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why **he is not ashamed to call them brothers**,

C. You are an **heir to the throne of grace**.

Gal. 4:7

<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, **then an heir through God**.

D. You are **precious and loved**.

Isa. 43:4

<sup>4</sup> Because **you are precious in my eyes**, and honored, and **I love you**, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

**What about you?** Do you need to rebuild your identity in Christ? Which of the above statements is most helpful to you now?

**3. You'll protect your spiritual identity by striving to be pleasing to God alone.**

Mark 3:34,35

<sup>34</sup> And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" <sup>35</sup> **For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."**

**What about you?** Pleasing the Lord, the Head of our family, reminds us we are His. What step can you take this week to bring one area of your life in line with God's will? How can you help another brother or sister do the same?