

Family?

Church?

Does Church Family = God's Family?



Ephesians 2:18, 19, 22

18 or through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household/family ... **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

1 Cor 6:19, 20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body

Church Family



How do we become part of God's Family?
What does it mean to be born of the Spirit?
How does the family of God function in the Spirit?
How are we to walk in God's family?

Since Church is God's Family, How do we become part of His family?

John 3:1-8

v4. Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

v5. Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

We [in CoC] talk about necessity of baptism, but we usually are silent on what it means to be born of the Spirit. Christ insists both are necessary.

God's Family

How do we become part of God's Family?

Acts 2:38-39

v38. Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

v39. "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Peter reiterates (Christ's message to Nicodemus) that we are born by water and Spirit. At the new birth we receive His Spirit to help us

In God's Family,

How do we become part of God's Family?

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, **by the washing of regeneration [*] and renewing by the Holy Spirit.**

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

So the new birth leads to new creation, new family. Completely different from world.

In God's Family,



I Pet 2:2 says we start off as newborn babies,
I John 2:12-13 and I Tim 5:1-2 indicates we have
young men/women, fathers, older men, older women
within the family. **Gal 3:28** says in Christ racial and
economic distinctions are erased.

*How each member functions is crucial to body's function
and only possible through Spirit working in us.*

**The family Portrait: Babes, Young, Old,
Black, Latino, Asian, White, Rich, Poor**

In God's Family,

What does it mean to be born of the Spirit?

Ezekiel 37:1-10

- v1.** The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit [ruach] of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones.
- v2.** He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry.
- v3.** He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know.
- v4.** Again He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'
- v5.** "Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.

In God's Family,

What does it mean to be born of the Spirit?

Ezekiel 37:1-10

v6. 'I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath [ruach=spirit] in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.'

v7. So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **v8.** And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath [ruach=spirit] in them.

v9. Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath [ruach=spirit], prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath [ruach=spirit], 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Come from the four winds, O breath [ruach=spirit], and breathe on these slain, that they come to life."

In God's Family,

What does it mean to be born of the Spirit?

Ezekiel 37:1-10

v10. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath [ruach=spirit] came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Without God's breath (Spirit), this great army was a valley of dead, dry bones.

In God's Family,

What does it mean to be born of the Spirit?

Ephesians 1:13,14 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise**, who is **given as a pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory

Romans 8:8,9 and those controlled by the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. **But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.**

Again the new birth leads to new creation, new family, the family of God with the stamp/seal of His Spirit. We cannot please God without the HS. We don't even belong to Him without the HS.

In God's Family,

How are we to walk in this world?

Walking in the flesh	Walking in the Spirit
Gal 5:19-21 enmities, strife, anger, disputes, envying,	Gal 5:22-23 love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control
	I Cor 12:25 Members care for another

Walking in the Spirits helps us to function as a family on its way home

In God's Family,

How does the family function in the Spirit?

Gal 5:13,14,16,22-23 (13) For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another, (14) For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF”. (16) **But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.** (22-23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law

In God's Family,

How does the family function in the Spirit?

Gal 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household** of the faith/family of faith/family of believers.

The Spirit enables us to love one another, do good to each other.

In God's Family,

How does the family function in the Spirit?

James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food **v16.** and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

Romans 12:13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality;

Take care of physical needs of one another,
practice hospitality

In God's Family,

How does the family function in the Spirit?

1 Cor 12:25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the **members may have the same care for one another.**

Heb 3:13 But **encourage one another daily**, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness

Care for and encourage another as family

In God's Family,

How does the family function in the Spirit?

Acts 2:42,46

v.42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

v.46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Family ate together, prayed together, shared the gospel together

In God's Family, how are we to walk?

Walking in the flesh	Walking in the Spirit
Gal 5:19-21 Enmities, strife, anger, disputes, envying,	Gal 5:22-23 Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control I Cor 12:25 Members care for another
<ul style="list-style-type: none">. Talking to those we know/comfortable with. Hanging out with only those who look like us. Hold grudges against a brother or sister. Impatient with one another. Unable to forgive another. Do not work together as a unit, team. Have a hard time sharing the gospel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">. Praying together. Calling regularly. Encouraging. Eating together. Studying together. Sharing gospel together.

Are you a member of God's family?



Have you become part of God's Family?
Have you been born of the Spirit?
How are you functioning in the Spirit?
How do we grow in God's family