

God's Family

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1. The song we just sang (643) sets the stage for our study today
2. It is important for us to know what we are singing as we are teaching and admonishing one another when we do so (**Col. 3:16**)
3. We don't just sing any song – it must be scriptural.
4. This song draws our attention to our spiritual family – God's family
 - a. God's word always places emphasis on the spiritual family over our physical family
 - i. Jesus made this point of who his mother and brothers were – those who obey God (**Mark. 3:31-35**)
 - ii. We must be willing to forsake physical family to follow Christ – **Mt. 10:34-37; Lk. 14:25-27, 33**
 - b. Sometimes we are fortunate that our physical family is a part of our spiritual family and what a blessing that is
5. What makes God's family so special and important?
 - We (Christians) are part of the family:
 - That's been Born again
 - Whose love knows no end, for Jesus has loved us and made us His own
 - On its way home

Discussion: (God's Family is Characterized by...)

I. A SHARED BOND IN CHRIST

- A. Born Again
 1. Of incorruptible seed through the word of God – **1 Pt. 1:22-25; Js. 1:18**
 2. Born of water and the spirit – **John 3:1-8**
 3. Baptized INTO Christ = INTO God's Family – **Gal. 3:26-29; Jn. 1:10-13**
 - a. No Jew/Greek, Slave/Free, Male/Female
 - b. All ONE in Christ
 - c. Given the right to be children
- B. Also, adopted as Children – **Rom. 8:12-15**
- C. Joint heirs with Christ – **Rom. 8:16-17**

II. GENUINE CARE FOR EACH OTHER

- A. Verse 1 – ***"Part of the Family whose love knows no end, for Jesus has saved us and made us His own"***
- B. Just as God and Christ's love for us has no end (**Rom. 8:31-39**), so Jesus commanded our love should be for each other (**Jn. 13:34-35; 1 Pt. 1:22**)
- C. Genuine concern for each other / esteem them better than ourselves – look out for their interest and ours (**Phil. 2:1-4; 1 Pt. 3:8-12**)
- D. What this looks like in action (**Rom. 12:9-16**)
 1. Kindly affectionate, brotherly love, in honor giving preference
 2. Distributing to the needs – given to hospitality
 3. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep
- E. Verse 2 – ***"When a brother meets sorrow; we all feel his grief."***
"When he's passed thru the valley, we all feel relief."
"Together in sunshine, together in rain,
together in victory thru His precious name"

- F. First part of Chorus – ***“And sometimes we laugh together, sometimes we cry; Sometimes we share together heartaches and sighs”***

III. A SHARED HOMETOWN – HEAVEN

- A. Verse 1 – ***“Part of that family that’s on its way home”***
- B. Having been born again, we have become joint heirs with Christ – our inheritance is in heaven (**Rom. 8:16-17; 1 Pt. 1:3-10**)
- C. This world is not our home, we are mere pilgrims and sojourners here (**1 Pt. 1:17; 2:11; Heb. 11:13-16; 13:14**)
- D. Our citizenship is in Heaven, and we are pressing on toward that goal during our time here – **Phil. 3:12-21**
- E. We will all be together there, with the Lord (**1 Thess. 4:13-18**)
- F. Verse 3 – ***“And Though some go before us, We’ll all meet again
Just inside the city as we enter in,
There’ll be no parting, with Jesus we’ll be
Together forever, God’s Family”***
- G. Second part of Chorus – ***“Sometimes we dream together of how it will be when we all get to Heaven, God’s family”***

Conclusion:

1. Are you part of God’s family?
2. If so, are you acting properly as a part of that family?
3. Why not come (or come back) to the Lord today and be a part of this family that is on its way home?