

# The Family of God

By Pastor Marcus Martinez



I feel an overwhelming joy to know that as a born-again believer, I am part of the family of God. Please notice **Ephesians 3:14-15 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.**

I want you to know that we belong to a very large spiritual family. Our spiritual family is all the people who have confessed Jesus Christ as their Saviour, from the beginning of time to the end of the age. Wow, what a family tree!

We must understand that Father God's heart was always to have a family. The Webster Dictionary defines family as, "all the people living in the same house; all those claiming descent from a common ancestor; tribe or clan; lineage; a group of things having a common source or similar features." So a family can be defined as all the people living in the same house.

**Ephesians 2:19** says, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." We now belong to the household of God. The word household literally means members of the family.

This is good to know because when feelings of loneliness are coming into our thought patterns, we can resist by confessing our spiritual membership in the great family of God.

At times, some people come to me and say, "Pastor, this church is my family and I don't know what I would do without my spiritual family." When I hear this, I rejoice because that person has a revelation of the spiritual importance of the body of Christ, which is also called the family of God, or the Church.

**Ephesians 4:11-16: And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**

What the Word is saying is that every child of God is vitally important to the general growth of the body of Christ. You must know that you are important to God the Father and to His children.

Notice **verses 11-13** in particular: God gave us spiritual leaders to equip us so we, the family of God, can look after the family business and strengthen and encourage the family to live in unity (togetherness).

**Ephesians 4:1-4** says, **“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling.”**

In **verses 3-4**: Paul is instructing the family of God on how to relate to one another. He told them to keep unity among themselves and he also wanted to let them know that they belong to only one true eternal family of God.

As a young boy growing up in my parents home, I was constantly reminded by my father that I should protect my younger siblings and maintain unity among ourselves. It is the same with our Heavenly Father and His family.

I would like to share a personal testimony of how important family is. In my late teens, I decided to venture out into the world without my family's support. I must tell you; at the beginning of this adventure I was quite excited. I felt like I was a man. However, as time went on and the struggles of life kicked in, I began to feel defeated and alone.

One day when I was in my apartment, my parents called me, told me that they loved me and that I should return home. At first, I was a little hesitant but because of their encouragement, I went home and I must say my life was drastically changed for the better.

One way that we can enhance our relationship with each other is to practice the LUV talk. This is an acronym which stands for

L – Listen  
U – Understand  
V – Validate

It is essential when communicating with others, that we take the time to LISTEN without interrupting the other person. This will allow the person to finish his train of thought.

Then, we make sure that we UNDERSTAND what is said by rephrasing what we believe is being said, especially where emotions are raw or tender. This should clear up any misconception, as the person could then say, “that is not what I meant.”

It is very easy to hear someone talk and then through pre-conceived notions we assume that we know what is being said. What we heard, was not what was said. The enemy or “prince of the air” (ref. **Ephesians 2:1-2**) has a tendency to spin things mid-air, so that the way things are intended are not how they are received. Guard against this.

Last but not least, it is essential that we VALIDATE others. This means that we recognize others by giving them our undivided attention. It is important to look at them when they speak (this is really important). People feel invisible and insignificant if one cannot even focus on them for a few minutes.

Respond to them during the conversation with words that indicate you are paying attention. Have you ever talked to someone for a few minutes and all you receive is a blank stare even when you have finished. How does that feel? So keep this in mind: we validate people by giving them our attention. If you cannot do that, schedule a time when you are able to do so.

Also, validate a person by acknowledging their feelings. It is encouraging to your family members (whether biological, extended, or spiritual) that you acknowledge their feelings when they tell you how they feel. They are entitled to their feelings.

Even if you do not agree that they should feel how they feel, it is their feeling. They own it. They have a right to it. More importantly, they have a right to voice it. The bible says, **“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).”**

The LUV walk is a practical application on improving communication and relationship with our family. Let us familiarize ourselves with this concept. **Hebrews 10:24-25** says, **“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”**

As a family, we should pray for one another (**James 5:16**); care for one another (**1Corinthians 12:24-25**); bear one another’s burdens (**Galatians 6:2**); submit to one another (**Ephesians 5:21**); admonish one another (**Colossians 3:16**); and stir up one another towards love and good works (**Hebrews 10:24**).

If we will desire to walk as a body or family, we will experience the power of God in our lives and in our church. Let us do our utmost, with the help of Holy Spirit, to always LUV one another.

*Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotes are from the New King James Version (NKJV)*