

God Redeems Family

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Family...

...is fantastic

...is frustrating

...has a future

1. A radical redefinition of family

A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” (Mark 3:32–35)

“As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you,” says the Lord. (Isa. 66:13)

So that the soul may say, “If I have hatred in the world, I will go where I am sure of love. Though all others are hard to me, yet my Father is tender and full of compassion: I will go to him, and satisfy myself in him.” (from *Communion with the Triune God* by John Owen)

2. A dramatic renewal of family

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (Acts 2:42–45)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household [family] of God. (Eph 2:19)

Is the church a mere parenthesis, or intermission, in the drama of redemption or is it its end and objective, as Calvin apparently thought? A good case can be made that the church, understood as the society of believers in Christ, is indeed the purpose for which God created the heavens and the earth. (from *Faith Speaking Understanding* by Kevin Van Hoozer)

3. A glorious realisation of family

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (1 John 3:1–3)

Adoption is “a judicial exalting us into membership in that family, where God is the Father, Christ the elder brother, all saints and angels brethren and fellow-children, and the inheritance a crown immortal and incorruptible, that fades not away.” (from *Communion with the Triune God* by John Owen)

Heading home...

...with a renewed desire to glorify God within the families where he has placed us