



CONSECRATE

TO BE SET APART

We Are Family



The Bible has much to say about family. While we may neglect or possibly ignore the importance of family, God’s heart is for the family. In the Garden of Eden, we see Him not only institutionalize marriage but create the first family in Adam and Eve. They were a family in perfect unity under God’s leadership. Today, we have natural families, church families, and also families we have been accepted or adopted into. None of these should be neglected. Strong biblical churches are typically made up of strong godly families.

In John 17, Jesus prayed that we, the believers, would be one just as He and the Father are one. We are a family of Christian brothers and sisters just as Jesus is the Son of God. As much as God enjoys our desire to be alone and have intimate time with Him, He also enjoys His children being in fellowship, united with one other. Is it possible to have unified relationships with our church, marriages, and children? Truthfully, our connection with Him depends on our connection with each other. After all, how can we say we love God and hate our brothers and sisters? Ultimately, it is our love for one another that makes the difference.

Obviously, this month’s devotional focuses on family. All families are unique and the body of Christ is no different. Although we come from many different places and backgrounds, God has made us one. Galatians 3:28 reinforces that “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” It is our faith in Jesus Christ alone that has made us sons and daughters of God. Because of His love for us, He has adopted us into His family. Our adoption, however, was not by chance! Rather, we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and God’s special possession. He has a divine purpose and a special role for all His children to play within the body of Christ.

Information on Fasting	Bethel Prayer Schedule
Visit BethelWorld.org and the May 2018 devotional for information on the purpose of fasting, helpful tips while fasting and appropriate things to do and not do during a time of fasting.	<p>Monday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary.</p> <p>Tuesday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary.</p> <p>Wednesday: Monthly church-wide day of Prayer and Fasting - Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary - 7PM service.</p>

“Unity In The Body”

READ

Galations 6:10 • Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 • 1 Corinthians 12:26
• Psalm 133:1 • Romans 12:15-16 • 1 Corinthians 1:10 •
Colossians 3:13-14 • 1 Peter 3:8 • Ephesians 4:3

REFLECT

In today's society, we have created so many opportunities to categorize ourselves we have become accustomed to the idea of division. Whether it be politics, religion, ethnicity, or gender, conflict and division appear inevitable. Unfortunately, many in the church have been swept away with this norm as well. Not to mention, our man-made denominations have created their own share of additional barriers. However, as the church, this division should not be so. The body is called to function on one accord. Yet, there will always be certain occasions and subjects that have the potential to separate us, but as we value unity we will look for opportunities to come closer together.

Jesus said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” It's the lack of unity that causes destruction. But on the other hand, Psalms 133:1 reminds us, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Through the power of unity, we are blessed with godly fellowship, support systems, accountability partners, answered prayer, and even the presence of God. As we unite, we are able to build each other up. So, it is not good for man to be alone. God has given us all assignments and an overall purpose ultimately designed to help someone else know Him better. Although it can be difficult not considering our own needs, Philippians 2:3 encourages us to “think of others as more important than yourself.” When we decide to be selfless, we will find true unity in the church.

Why is it important that we operate in unity?

How does unity reflect the character of God?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Repent for any association you've had with division in the church
- Ask God to help you to be a vessel of unity
- Seek out relationships that will allow you to encourage others

“A Chosen People”

READ

Ephesians 1:5 • John 1:12 • Ephesians 2:19 • 1 John 3:1 •
Matthew 12:50 • Romans 8:15-17 • Galatians 3:26 • John
17:23

REFLECT

In most cases, we do not get the luxury of choosing who becomes a member of our family. Whether it be your brother, sister, or extended family, you just have to roll with the hand you were dealt. But God has done quite the opposite. Ignoring all of our flaws and shortcomings, He has chosen to adopt us into His family. We are hand picked! We are privileged to love Him, but only because He first loved us. In our sinful state, we were not in the position to choose God, yet for some reason He still chose us.

When we confess with our mouth and believe in our heart that Jesus is Lord, we are immediately adopted into God’s family. The Apostle Paul said that like branches, we were grafted into the family tree. Not only that, but we get to partake of its “fatness” and everything the tree has to offer. We are now sons and daughters of the King of Kings; heirs of the Kingdom of God and joint heirs with Christ. Our loving Father has made us beneficiaries of everything He has. Going above and beyond, He also provides protection, guidance, provisions, and even correction when needed. He is never far off and knows us by name. Ephesians 2:10 proclaims we are God’s masterpiece. We are a royal priesthood, fearfully and wonderfully made, and blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus. The Father has truly given His children His all.

Why would God choose to adopt us into His family?

Have you accepted all the Father has made you to be?

How does it feel to be hand picked by God?

RESPOND

- Ask God to reveal His great love to you
- Proclaim your sonship with boldness
- Thank God daily for being a wonderful father

“Knowing Your Role”

READ

1 Corinthians 12:12 • Philippians 2:6-8 • Ephesians 4:11 •
 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 • Romans 12:4-8 • John 16:13-14 •
 Luke 19:10 • Colossians 3:18-21

REFLECT

In John 10:30, Jesus proclaims, “I and the Father are one.” Although He did not consider it robbery to be equal with God the Father, He found Himself operating in an entirely different role as the Father. Jesus would humble Himself in the form of a servant and be obedient to the point of death. The job itself may have been proven to be a hefty one, yet the description of the role was quite simple: to seek and save the lost. Even more, after the ascension of Jesus, we see the Holy Spirit take on the role of a comforter and a teacher. Thus, we have the trinity. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each member playing a different role, but always on one accord.

In Christ, we are one body consisting of many members. However, when people do not know the specific role they are meant to play, things can get pretty confusing. Thankfully, God is not the author of confusion so He desires to make things clear for us to comprehend. 1 Corinthians 12:18 confirms this, saying God sets each member exactly where He wants them to be. Within this body, He has gifted us to walk in various roles such as pastor, teacher, exhorter, administrator, and many others. While our roles are different, “there should be no schisms in the body, but members should have the same care for one another.” We are to rejoice in our differences. God has designed us to be diverse, yet unified. One family, one body, on one accord.

Why is it important to know your role in the body of Christ?

How should you respond to members that have different roles than yourself?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Ask God to show you where He would desire you to be
- Think of 3 reasons God has placed you where you are in the body of Christ
- Repent for any time you have neglected your role in the body of Christ

