

Family of God

"What does God want?"



For many people, they see God as an enormous giver of rules. Don't do this, you can't do that, you have to behave a certain way, speak a certain way, dress a certain way, only listen to certain music, don't dance, don't play cards, basically give up your freedom and your fun. Traditions of men are not necessarily the same as the Word of God.

In the beginning, when God created man, God had only one rule: "...but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you shall surely die." Gen 3:17

One rule, that's all...and we couldn't do it.

That very first family that God created was ruined. The pure relationship God had with Adam and Eve was forever severed. The easy life they once enjoyed was now filled with toil and pain. (Genesis Chapter 3)

The perfect family God created was now held hostage by sin. But God has longed to have a relationship with us since the beginning. "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.*" Matt 23:27

At some point in time, we each ask ourselves, "What is the meaning of all this? Why am I here? What is my purpose for being on this earth? What does God want?"

So here it is...*God wants a family.*

From Genesis to Revelation, all throughout the Bible, an underlying theme is that God wants a family. First, with Adam and Eve, then with the Hebrews (Jews) and lastly with all people's from every tribe, nation and tongue. (Rev 7:9) "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus." Acts 20:21

Through Jesus Christ, the way was paved for us to have fellowship with God the Father once and for all. We can communicate with God our Father through prayer that is prayed in the name of Jesus. The disciples asked, "*Lord, teach us how to pray.*" Jesus responded, "*When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name...*" Luke 11:1-2



"I will not leave you as orphans ;I will come to you." John 14:18

Imagine an orphanage full of children. Some areas of the orphanage are cleaner than others, some orphans are wearing nice looking clothes, some are wearing rags. Some orphans are eating nice food, some are eating crumbs, some seem well-adjusted and others are miserable. Even though they all live together in the same orphanage, they are each different, they are each orphans, all alone, yet together, and all searching for a family to belong to.

Then one day, a rich man walks in. He has seen how bad the living conditions can be at the orphanage. He has great compassion on them and makes them an offer, he says:

"Little children, I can see how lonely you are and in need of a Father to love you and take care of you. I am willing to take you into my home, and love you and care for you and protect you. I will give you my Name, and you will be orphans no more. I will make you joint heirs with my Son. Where my Son is, there, you will be also.

"Very soon I will send my Son to make all of the arrangements. When He comes, all you have to do is tell Him you want to be part of the family, and He will write your name in the Book. We are offering you a better life than what you have been living here in this orphanage. So, it is up to you. If you want to come live with me and my family, you are welcome to. If not, that is ok too. So, to all who has an ear to hear, let him hear. Everyone is invited!" Then the rich man left.

After he left, some of the orphans were excited! They wanted to be adopted! They dreamed of what the rich man's house must look like, and they kept watch for the Son so their names could be written down. Some of the orphans were undecided and some of them liked where they lived just fine. They didn't need no rich man to come wave his wealth in front of their nose. So, they went about their lives just as they always had.

As promised, the Son came by one day and started writing down the names of those that wanted to be adopted. The Son asked the others who were undecided, as well as the ones that outright rejected his Father's offer, if they would like to change their minds. Some of them did, and some of them didn't.

The orphans who had accepted the offer to be adopted followed the Son out of the orphanage, where they were set free from the bonds of the orphanage. The Son told them that He was going away to prepare a place for them, so that where he was, they could be also. But, until He returned for them, to live in a manner that would bring honor to His and their Father. He also told them to be sure to tell others they meet that they, too, can be adopted if they want to be. Before the Son left, He gave each of them a personal helper, to show them how to live and act in their new life of freedom.



In this story, the orphans are the humans on our planet, regardless of social standing, wealth, poverty, nationality, religious upbringing or background. To God, we are all the same. The orphanage is the world and the influences Satan has in this world. The wealthy man is God the Father and the Son is Jesus. The helper is the Holy Spirit. Being set free is Salvation.

The behavior God asks of us is because we are now a new creation, the old self has been done away with. (2 Cor 5:17) If a bank robber claims to have been reformed, yet continues to rob banks, has the robber really been reformed? Where is the evidence of the change?

Every family has expectations and requirements of those who are in the family. The Bible tells us what is expected of us. The Holy Spirit also instructs us. Do not allow yourself to be weighted down by the traditions of men, but read and find out for yourself.

In our church-going world, we use words to describe family:

The Family of God
Church Family
Brothers and Sisters in Christ
Our Father in Heaven
Children of God (Romans 8:21)

Songs we sing mention family:

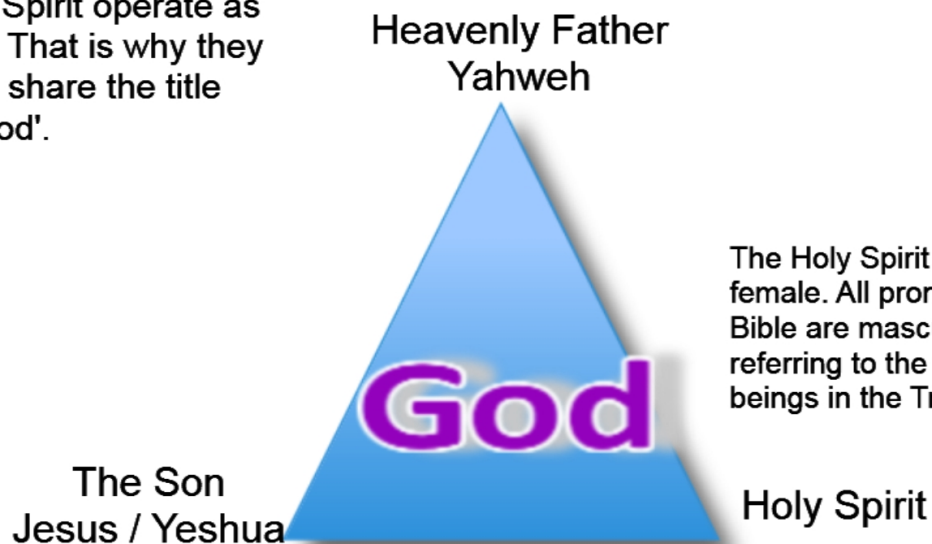
I'm So Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God

Our Heavenly Father sees us all as equals:

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all, and richly blesses all who call on him. Romans 10:12

The Trinity is a perfect picture of the family structure. We can compare it to our earthly family structure of Dad, Mom and kids. It is probably easiest to understand if we liken it to a Royal Family. Within that royal family are the King (George III), the Queen (Charlotte), the Prince (Edward). *Together* they operate as the Royal Family.

Together, Yahweh, Jesus and the Holy Spirit operate as God. That is why they each share the title of 'God'.



The Holy Spirit is not female. All pronouns in the Bible are masculine when referring to the different beings in the Trinity.

The 'saved' are adopted into the family of God as joint heirs with Jesus, making us sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father, with all the rights and privileges thereof. **A family.**

