

Made New Series – Week 3

“Members of A New Family”

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Senior Pastor, Dr. Janet Cook

Adopted into a New Family

Galatians 4:4-7 “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

Redemption in our Lord Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

We are Adopted by God

Ephesians 1:5-6 “...having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

John 1:9-11 “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”

John 1:12-13 “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” (NIV)

Everyone is welcome in God’s Family

- The resurrection makes us new by giving us a new birth into a spiritual family.
- There are incredible benefits that come to us by being in the family of God.

Acts 2:42-44 “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.”

Acts 2:45-47 “They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

God’s Community is Attractive

1. The Family of God Does Life Together

1 John 1:3 “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”

- The power of this community finds its origins in the fellowship shared with God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

2. The Family of God Meets Each Other’s Needs

Galatians 6:9-10 “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

- Meeting each other’s needs.

This is My Church Declaration

“This is my church. It is composed of people just like me. It will be friendly if I am. It will do a great work if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous. It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them. Its seats will be filled if I fill them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service. If I make it what it is, then I am filled with these.

Therefore, with God’s help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all these things I want my church to be.”

Make Room at the Table

Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

- Our good deeds become invitations to the fellowship, community, and family that we experience through our faith in Jesus.
- The Resurrection makes us new and invites us into God’s family, so that we might invite others to join as well.

The Spirit of Adoption

Romans 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Prayer Declaration: “We cry out ‘Abba Father.’ Thank you, Lord, for making a way for us to be a part of your eternal family by giving us the Spirit of Adoption. Thank you for making space at the table, for being an invitational God, and for being kind. Let us be more like you as we interact with others. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.”