

**Mark 3:31-35 — "Being in the Family of God!"**

The church is NOT made up of natural friends — but enemies. What binds us together is not education, race, income, politics, nationality, accents, jobs, etc. We come together because we have been saved by Jesus Christ and owe him allegiance. In light of this and in light of the fact we have been loved, we commit to doing what he says.

— D.A. Carson

*Background to Mark 3:31-35*

- If Mark 2 was about conflict. Then Mark 3 has been about official rejection by the Jewish leaders. We are at a major turning point in Christ's public 3-year ministry.
- Mark 3:20-21 - his family thought he was nuts
- Mark 3:22-30 - the Jews accused him of Satanic work.
- So now Jesus teaches/clarifies the **new family of God!**

Inclusio [bracket/sandwich structure; often the middle element is *prominent/emphatic*.]

A. 3:20-21 Jesus' family thinks he is nuts

B. 3:22-30 Jewish leaders accuse Jesus of doing miracles by Satan's power

A' 3:31-35 Jesus' family clarified spiritually

**I. THE NATURAL FAMILY (31-32)****II. THE SPIRITUAL FAMILY (33-35)**

A. The **Pronouncement** of the new Spiritual Family -

➔ **the point?** "Spiritual ties between Christ & believers are FAR CLOSER than blood ties of family relationships"

These verses shatter the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) dogma of "Mariology." In RCC Dogma, Mary is called: "Co-Redemptrix" — According to the Roman Catholic Church, when Mary accepted God's invitation for her to bear His Son, she "... was already collaborating with the whole work her Son was to accomplish" (From the Catechism of the Catholic Church). RCC doctrine teaches: Thus Mary, in a subordinate role to Christ, had a "part with him in the redemption of the human race." She is, therefore, called by the Church the "the co-operatrix in man's redemption," "our coredemptor." For at the cross, Mary triumphed "utterly over the ancient serpent."

B. The **Proof** of being in the new Spiritual Family

C. The **Privileges** of partaking of the new Spiritual family

This—the highest privilege of all—is adoption into the family of God with all the rights and privileges of knowing Him as our heavenly Father. (Sinclair Ferguson)

**Let these glorious privileges seize and gladden and comfort your heart!**

- ✓ New birth - enter in by the work of the Spirit - John 3.3-5
- ✓ Glorious love - and we marvel at the love of God - 1 John 3.1
- ✓ Free gift - receive it all through faith in Jesus Christ - John 1.12-13
- ✓ Secure children - the Father loves us as 'children' - John 16.27
- ✓ Eternally Chosen- we are predestined to be adopted - Ephesians 1.5
- ✓ Sons of God - we are children thru faith in Jesus Christ - Gal 3.26
- ✓ Internal Comfort - we are assured we are children of God by the Spirit's work - Rom 8.14-16
- ✓ Everlasting inheritance - we have FULL right to the inheritance - Gal 4.7
- ✓ Wondrous rights- we have all the rights and responsibilities of an adopted child (Gal 4.4-5)
- ✓ Tender promises - God says I will be a father to you and you be sons and daughters to me (2 Cor 6.18)

**Other great privileges:**

1. We are able to talk to God and relate to him as a good and loving Father. (1 John 3.1)
2. We are led by the Holy Spirit. (Rom 8.14-17)
3. God disciplines us as his children. (Hebrews 12:5-6)
4. We relate to other believers as members of one family. (1 Tim 5.1-2)
5. We imitate and honor our Father in heaven. (Ephesians 5.1)

**Behold the family of God — it's superior, it's eternal, it's stronger, it's more satisfying, it's closer, it's bigger, and it's happier!**

Why? the family of God is unified in...

1. **adoration** - worship to God! (**You Love God!**)
2. **submission** - submission to God in Christ thru the Word (**You Obey God!**)
3. **ambition** - ambition to please & glorify & honor God (**You Please God!**)
4. **destination** - our home is heaven heaven (**You'll Dwell With God**)

**Who are those who are in Christ’s family?**

1. THEY WHO HEAR — John 10:27
2. THEY WHO KNOW HIM — John 10:14
3. THEY WHO BELIEVE — John 10:26
4. THEY WHO REPENT — Gal. 5:24
5. THEY WHO FOLLOW HIM — John 10:27
6. THEY WHO HAVE HIS SPIRIT — Rom. 8:9
7. THEY WHO OBEY — **Mark 3:35**; John 15:14

**In Christ the Son, we have become the adopted sons of God:** “Adoption is the authoritative translation of a believer, by Jesus Christ, from the family of the world and Satan, into the family of God, with his investiture in all the privileges and advantages of that family.”

**in the family of God , we have privileges:**

- 1. We enjoy** the liberty of the children of God. We are set free from the hold of the old family. No longer is its influence dominant—even if we are not entirely free from its atmosphere and even its menacing influence.
- 2. We have** a new title, and as royal sons enjoy “a feast of fat things,” not least in the church, where we have the privilege of belonging to the family of God and being served by, and in turn loving and serving, its members.
- 3. We experience** boldness before the face of God. In Christ, we are as righteous as He is before God. We have the privilege of calling Him “Abba, Father.” We can ask anything in Jesus’ name. What more could we ask for?
- 4. We experience** affliction. But for the child of God, affliction is always chastisement—the action of the Father. This, as Owen rightly points out, is precisely the burden of (Hebrews 12:5–11). It is one of the chief distinctions between Christians and unbelievers. The latter seek but do not find any ultimate meaning in their suffering; as a result, unbelievers must attempt to create meaning. But not so Christians. For Scripture teaches them that, in Christ, trials have a goal.

— Sinclair Ferguson on the great privileges of adoption.

**“Extol and magnify God’s mercy, who has adopted you into his family;** who, of slaves, has made you sons; of heirs of hell, heirs of the promise. Adoption is a free gift. He gave them power, or dignity, to become the sons of God. As a thread of silver runs through a whole piece of work, so free grace runs through the whole privilege of adoption. Adoption is greater mercy than Adam had in paradise; he was a son by creation, but here is a further sonship by adoption. To make us thankful, consider, in civil adoption there is some worth and excellence in the person to be adopted; but there was no worth in us, neither beauty, nor parentage, nor virtue; nothing in us to move God to bestow the prerogative of sonship upon us. We have enough in us to move God to correct us, but nothing to move him to adopt us, therefore exalt free grace; begin the work of angels here; bless him with your praises who has blessed you in making you his sons and daughters.” (Thomas Watson)

**Mark 3:31-35 — "Being in the Family of God!"****BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS***Tune: A Charge to Keep I Have*

Blest be the tie that binds  
 Our hearts in Christian love;  
 The fellowship of kindred minds  
 Is like to that above.

When we asunder part,  
 It gives us inward pain;  
 But we shall still be joined in heart,  
 And hope to meet again.

Before our Father's throne  
 We pour our ardent prayers;  
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims, are one,  
 Our comforts and our cares.

This glorious hope revives  
 Our courage by the way,  
 While each in expectation lives,  
 And longs to see the day.

We share our mutual woes,  
 Our mutual burdens bear,  
 And often for each other flows  
 The sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil and pain,  
 And sin, we shall be free;  
 And perfect love and friendship reign  
 Through all eternity.

**BENEATH THE CROSS**

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand,  
 And wonder at such mercy That calls me as I am;  
 For hands that should discard me Hold wounds which tell me,  
 "Come."  
 Beneath the cross of Jesus My unworthy soul is won.

How could I now dishonor The ones that You have loved?  
 Beneath the cross of Jesus See the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus His family is my own—  
 Once strangers chasing selfish dreams, Now one through  
 grace alone.

Beneath the cross of Jesus—The path before the crown—  
 We follow in His footsteps Where promised hope is found.  
 How great the joy before us To be His perfect bride;  
 Beneath the cross of Jesus We will gladly live our lives.

***Prayer of Confession***

Holy God, Lord most gracious!  
 Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your  
 wrath!  
 Holy you have called us to come to you.  
 We feel unworthy, for we have failed you again and  
 again.  
 We feel like running away, yet you keep calling us.  
 Have mercy on us, O God.  
 Have mercy!  
 Holy God, Father most gracious!  
 Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your  
 wrath!  
 Heal us from our sin, for we are troubled.

Deliver us for the sake of your steadfast love.  
 Our sins trouble us, O God.  
 We are troubled by how they have hurt others.  
 We are troubled by how they have hurt us.  
 Your ways are right! O righteous God!  
 And whenever we have refused to follow them  
 we have found out how right they are.  
 Have mercy on us, O God.  
 Holy God, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 have mercy on us for the sake of your Son,  
 who died to free us from our sins.  
 To you be honor and glory! Amen.

*— Hughes Oliphant Old, Book of Common Worship*