

Family Dynamics in Christ

1. There Are *Family Traits* that Should Characterize Us in Christ.

2. Christ Has Won Our Place in His Family.

3. He Has Given Us *Siblings* to Help Us Learn These Family Traits.

CONCLUSION: The fellowship that the Church in Philippi shared with Paul was part of the larger relational context of God's family. Their trust in Christ brought them into the household of God. As members of this family we, along with them, are to demonstrate certain familial traits: obedience, work, and joy that resemble Jesus, our elder brother, by faith in Him to the glory of the Father.

Galatians 3:15-29 (emphasis added)

¹⁵ To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made *covenant*, no one annuls it or adds to it *once it has been ratified*. ¹⁶ Now *the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring*. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” *who is Christ*. ¹⁷ This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but *God gave it to Abraham by a promise*.

¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, *until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made*, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. ²⁰ Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. ²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, *so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe*.

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian *until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith*. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for *in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith*. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for *you are all one in Christ Jesus*. ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then *you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise*.

First Timothy 2:5-7

For there is one God, and there is *one mediator* between God and men, the man *Christ Jesus*, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

First John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the *gift of God*, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus for good works*, which God prepared beforehand, *that we should walk in them*.

Second Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.