

THE FAMILY OF GOD

See With New Eyes, Session 8

AT OUR PHYSICAL BIRTH, we are born into a family. This is a good thing because we need a family in order to grow and develop as human beings. The same is true when we are spiritually reborn. We are “born again” into the family of God so that we can grow spiritually.

FELLOWSHIP AND JOY

The church is a community of fellowship with God and our fellow human beings centered in revelation of eternal life we see in Jesus.

1 John 1:1-4—¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—²the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—³that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

A COMMUNITY OF LOVE AND HEALING

The church is a global community for the restoration and revelation of God’s love in our broken and hurting world.

Acts 2:40-47—⁴⁰And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

AN AGENT OF PROCLAMATION

The church the agent through which the good news of God’s healing love is to be proclaimed to the world.

1 Peter 2:9—You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

~NOTES~

“Fellowship” here is the Greek word *Koinōnia*, which means *community, communion, participation, shared life*

“Joy” here is *Chara* and means, *to feel delight, pleasure, happiness, to feel emotionally up or alive.*

“Saved” here is *Sozo* in the Greek, and means, *to heal, to restore, to make whole, to liberate.*

BAPTISM IS THE RITE OF PASSAGE INTO THE CHURCH

Baptism symbolizes immersion in God's love as our newly chosen way of life. The person who chooses to be baptized is saying, "I accept the death of Christ as my own death to the old life of sin and I accept His resurrection as my own resurrection to a new life of other-centered love.

Matthew 28:19-20—¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

Acts 2:38—Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Romans 6:1-6—³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Matthew 3:16-17—¹⁶When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

John 15:26—When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

John 16:14—He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

Acts 1:8—You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me.

Acts 22:16—And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

A "disciple" is a pupil, one who gives his mind and heart to learn and understand from a teacher.

Baptism represents our complete identification with the death and resurrection of Christ. It indicates that "our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." It means we have seen the beauty of God's self-sacrificing love in Christ and have decided to immerse our lives in that love as our new way of life.