

Being Family

Romans 8:15-17; Ephesians 5:22-32

If I have been adopted into God's family, then my attitude and my _____ should reflect that. I am in. I can stop striving to get in or trying to justify being in and can start representing the family with confidence.

Discussion 1. Some people help needy people out of a sense of guilt. Some do so to make a statement. And some help because of genuine love for those they are helping. How do you know which you are? How do you check your motives for the good "Christian" things you do?

The family metaphor for Christ followers means we stand with each other, we grieve with each other, we celebrate with each other, and we love each other even when we do not feel like it. Because _____.

Discussion 2. Have you been a part of churches that did not feel like family? Have you been a part of churches that DID? Compare and contrast the two. What, specifically, were the differences?

In God's social economy, authority and submission are through and to the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit is speaking through God-ordained authorities, _____ is _____ for the Christ follower. When authorities act and speak from the flesh, not so much.

Discussion 3. It is much more natural for us to submit to spiritual authorities when they speak through the Spirit. But how do you know if what you are hearing is from God or not? Are there any practical ways you can discern that?

The Spirit of God working through God's people together is breath-taking and powerful and amazing. In that way, being "better together" is a profound _____.

Discussion 4. Have you ever seen or experienced or heard about God working through a group of Christians (i.e., a church) in ways that were far greater than how He works through individuals? Can you think of any examples of this? What next steps is God calling you to take to be a part of something larger than yourself?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?