

## Welcome to the Family

We'd like to congratulate you on your decision to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and we'd like to welcome you to the family. Now that you are born again, you belong to two families, your natural family and your spiritual family. Like you will always be a child of your earthly parents, so you will always be a child of God. You did nothing to earn your position in your earthly family as you did nothing to earn a position in your spiritual family. Therefore, you can do nothing that will remove you from God's family.

**John 3:16** says <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Notice that it says that you have everlasting life...it doesn't say that you have everlasting life until you change your mind or until you sin again...and you will sin again. It says everlasting and if everlasting was limited, then it's not actually everlasting.

**Romans 6:23** says <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This verse says that the gift of God is eternal life and you have now chosen to accept that gift. Notice again that it doesn't say eternal life until you sin or until you make God mad, etc. Eternal means eternal.

**Romans 11:29** says <sup>29</sup>For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Without repentance means that God will not change His mind, you're stuck with Him and He's stuck with you, just like your current family. You can change your mind, change your name, move away, claim to disown them, but guess what...they're still your family.

**John 1:12** says <sup>12</sup>But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Did you catch that, once you have accepted Jesus as your Savior you become a child of God's...you're His kid now, no matter what you do, you'll always be His child.

That does not mean you can be as unruly as you want and get away with it. A man and wife in the early church tried to deceive everyone by pretending to give all the money from selling their property, but they kept part for themselves. They both made an emergency trip to eternity and some of the young men buried their bodies. God can not be tricked or deceived, He knows everything and sees everything. If you try to deceive Him, you only deceive yourself with the feeling you got away with something.

As with your earthly family, God expects you to follow some rules. We will point out a few for new members, but you will be learning what is expected from you the rest of your life. All the rules are in the Bible and we will say more about that later.

Your first duty on entering God's family is to get baptized by immersion.

Acts 10:48 says <sup>48</sup>And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Baptism is a public statement that you entered God's family and a time for other members of the family to welcome you. It symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, which is the price He paid for that free gift that you have chosen to accept. If you were baptized before you were born again, it cannot be a symbol of your new birth as it was done at the wrong time. You can not get sprinkled and satisfy this rule as sprinkling does not symbolize the death on the cross (in an upright position), burial (under the water) and resurrection (back out of the water and upright again). God wants things done His way and He does not need to tell us why. Sprinkling is a symbol of a symbol and the meaning is lost.

Another family duty is reading the instruction or rule book the Bible.

Joshua 1:8 says <sup>8</sup>This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

We learn about God by observing His creation and reading and studying His book, the Bible. We suggest that you start in the forth book of the New Testament called John. We also recommend the King James Version because the manuscripts used are closer to the original writings. We believe that God has preserved His word for English speaking people best in the KJV. For more on this subject please check out the link about the KJV on the Resources page of this website.

Another family duty is talking to the Father on a regular basics. We call this prayer and in its simplest terms is just talking to God.

I Thess 5:17 says to <sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing.

Since God promises to never leave us or forsake us we can and should pray (talk to) to God about everything, He cares for us and about us so He is interested in our everyday lives. He can comfort us and guide us so don't hesitate to talk to Him any time and about anything. Jesus gave us a model prayer in the first book of the New Testament called Mathew chapter 6 in verses 9-13. This is only a model or an outline and is not intended to be repeated whenever we pray. Read the verses before the prayer to see why.

Another task you need to work on is finding a good Bible believing soul winning church. This is the best way to fulfill the baptism duty.

Hebrews 10:25 says <sup>25</sup> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Since most churches have a website, you can get a list of churches in your area with a search. Their mission statement or belief statement will give you some idea if they are worth trying. You need a group for support and encouragement. The pastor should be able to guide you as you grow in your new family. You will want to tell others about your decision to accept Jesus as your Savior as you should want them to go to

Heaven with you. Please feel free to use the video and information on this website as a means of sharing with someone how they can know for sure if they died that they can go to Heaven. Those friends who do not support your decision most likely will need to be replaced, especially those friends who cannot relate to you or try to keep you from growing now that you have been born again into God's family. The church is a good place to find these friends.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may now have and please check back often as we will be adding additional articles to help you grow from a new born Christian to a mature Christian in your walk with our Savior.