

We Are a Family!



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We are a family that trusts God, loves the Lord Jesus, and treats family members in a Christlike way with the help of the Holy Spirit—that is to be our family motto. Family ties and home life give many opportunities for us to treat those in our family as God instructs. It is all part of growing in faith and increasing in trust on God each day—showing forth the light of His Truth.

God originated a home environment when He provided a companion for Adam. It was a perfect family situation with peace, happiness, harmony, and cooperation enjoyed. These perfect conditions were the result of a perfect God controlling the people.

Family and home are where we grow spiritually—or we can go back spiritually; that is our choice. The family is where we interact with others; whom we know very well—the home is where we learn to treat them as God wants us to treat people—but again, it is our choice.

The perfect conditions of this first home, however, were quickly reversed. Instead of peace, harmony, and cooperation, there was trouble, rebellion, and conflict. The cause of this reversal was listening to the devil. Satan told Eve that disobeying God would not affect her relationship with God—and instead would enable her to have everything she wanted—but without God.

Adam was given these instructions by God Genesis 2:16 “*Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*”

Eve was told this lie by Satan Genesis 3:4 “*Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*”

Satan convinced them first; controlled them second; and deceived them third. Now their heart was “*Deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked*” Jeremiah 17:9. A rebellious nature is defined Romans 1:21-22 “*When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools; 25 changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.*”

28-29 “*Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness [all unrighteousness, fornication], evil, greed and depravity [maliciousness]. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.*”

Instead of loving and trusting God as Adam first did, they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God and began doing things that should not be done. Instead of loving God they hated Him; instead of drawing near to God they ran from Him; and instead of trusting God they trusted their own plans. The result of this wrong attitude was tragic—their first son murdered his

brother and left the home. Both parents lost both sons—because of disobeying God.

Everyone born since that fatal decision to leave God and go their own way, is born with that same rebellious nature. This nature will ignore God and be determined to get what it wants in its own way. This attitude of not trusting God and trusting our own plans is the control-center of Satan’s power. Isaiah 53:6 “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.*”

God knew everyone would choose the wrong way, so He sent His Son into the world to offer the right way—by faith in Him. God promised to accept us back if we will repent, ask Him to forgive us, and trust Him in faith. Eden-like conditions can be restored in our family through the forgiveness of Christ—we have a right to claim and receive what God has promised—“*The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*”

God assumes the responsibility to lead every willing soul away from the control of Satan and to the control of the Holy Spirit. God’s initial plan is that our faith and our trust be on Him for everything. Eden-like peace and harmony are possible in our family today because the Blood of Jesus provides that. Jesus Isaiah 53:5 “*Was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*”

There are only two groups of people in the world—those under the control of Satan and those under the control of God—there is no neutral position of not being controlled by either of the two powers—we are controlled by one or the other. Jesus said Matthew 12:30 “*He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.*” Luke 11:23.

Everyone is either a believer or an unbeliever; a child of God or a child of the devil; they are either wise or foolish; a good tree or a bad

tree; *righteous* or *wicked*; those whose names are in the Book of Life and those who are *not*; those who love the *Lord* or those who love the *world*; objects of God's *mercy* or objects of God's *wrath*; those living God's *Truth* or those who accept Satan's *lie*.

The majority of people are controlled by the devil and getting worse every day. Those who trust God will be fewer and fewer as the End approaches. The global flood of 2843 B.C. saw only eight people saved from God's wrath, so the apostle warned: Ephesians 5:6 "*Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things [immorality, greed, idolatry] cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*" The majority is part of a world—that 1 John 5:19 "*lieth in wickedness.*"

God is very interested in the *peace* and *harmony* of our home—and of the salvation of every one in that family. Satan, on the other hand, is interested only in disturbing the *peace* of the home and destroying everyone in that home—forever—if we allow him!

The Bible gives the plan for *peace* and *cooperation* in our family. Following God's plan will not only *restore* peace to the home, but it will include a *spiritual* blessing to everyone in the family. Satan's control of the first couple was evident when Adam chose to *turn away from God* and *to go his own way*. The decision to follow his *own* plan by his *own* ability is the nucleus of Satan's control.

Our use of *sarcasm*, *resentment*, and *force* to have family members act as we want them to, is following the *human* plan Adam and Eve followed; and it would yield the same *disastrous* results—if not corrected. Jesus said John 14:23 "*If a man love me, he will keep my words.*" He then adds John 15:12 "*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you*"—

and *not* resent, argue with, and be sarcastic to one another.

The home is fertile soil for spiritual growth because we act natural at home. It is a good place to learn faith lessons on how to trust God for right attitudes in family members. Our true character is revealed around the house as we *say* things and we *treat* others at home in ways we would not want other people to know.

The cause of *trouble* is Satan's control of *attitudes*. The divine nature *should* be controlling us, but we were born with a *sin* nature controlling. Now we have to ask God to *change* our attitude. If we will *make* that choice, God will make it *possible* by giving us His Spirit to have us be the peacemaker.

For a harmonious home, we must be *at peace* with God—which begins with *repentance*; *confession* 1 John 1:9; forsaking wrong attitudes; and asking God to *change* our heart toward everyone. Next, we commit our life to God without ever going back to attitudes of the past. Romans 12:2 "*Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*"

We must place the blame for *strife* in the home on the *devil*—he is the *cause* of the trouble—it is *not* the family member. If we blame the person, Satan stays hidden and retains control. Once the *cause* of the problem is located, we are half-way to victory. Like any thief who comes to "*Steal and kill and destroy*" John 10:10, Satan will flee when his identity is revealed.

For harmony to abide in our home, resentment cannot be held against *anyone* about *anything*. Resenting them means not forgiving them—that has to be corrected. Mark 11:25 "*When you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.*" We forgive

first; then *forget* that the incident took place—treating them like it never happened—that is the way to "*overcome evil with good*" Romans 12:21.

For *peace* in our family, we place every *person* in the family before God—in prayer and in faith. We are not to worry about anything, but Philippians 4:6-7, "*By prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God. And then the peace of God*" will be enjoyed in our family.

Lessons of *trust* on God for peace, harmony, and Christ-like attitudes, are presented every day in our home. The Holy Spirit can enable us to bring peace to any situation—if we want to be the peacemaker. These lessons are *valuable* lessons. John 16:23 "*In that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say to you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.*"

We are promised *peace* in our family if we are willing to change *our* attitude first; claim *our* Atonement right second; and then *trust* Him in faith to help us be the peacemaker at all times and with every situation. John 14:26 "*The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*"

Jesus then says, 27 "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.*" Now it is up to us to believe it; to claim it; and to enjoy it. *We Are a family*—A Christian Home—promised by Jesus!



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