

June 7th ~ Sermon Notes and Journal Page  
Family, Community, and the Church - Ephesians 2:18-3:11

1 - Welcome To The Family

A - Strangers: These are people who are not connected to you: \_\_\_\_\_

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B - Foreigners: These are people that are not only relational strangers, they don't understand the rules or customs, and they probably think you are the weird one. \_\_\_\_\_

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C - BUT NOW, we are all *Citizens along with Gods Holy People*...What does it mean when we "become a citizen"? \_\_\_\_\_

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D - There are three basic ways to gain citizenship in most countries

**1 - Marriage 2 - Immigrate 3 - Adoption** \_\_\_\_\_

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If you have given your life over to Christ.. If you have confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God rose Him from the grave, than you have been adopted into the family of God, so to say it simply ***"Welcome to the Family"***

2 - Families Share

A - One interesting thing about being in a Family and being a Citizen is that they both come with benefits as well as burdens. \_\_\_\_\_

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B - In this life as a Christian we are going to deal with both sides of this reality. \_\_\_\_\_

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C - Remember that we are Citizens of the Kingdom of God, and members of Gods household.

*<sup>6</sup> And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News **share equally in the riches inherited by God's children.** Both are part of the same body, and **both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus...*** (NLT)

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### 3 - Make Your Father Proud

A - VS 10 - *"God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom"* \_\_\_\_\_

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### Journal Page

1 - Families and family issues: Well its pretty common knowledge that all families argue at some point. Some arguments are small and we get past them quickly. Others are not so small, and can hang on for years or decades at a time. The church is no different. Although we are all sinners saved by grace with a full understanding of the forgiveness that has been poured out in our own lives we still manage to find ways to argue. Some of these arguments are small, and some... not so small. The difference here is this: when we refuse to offer to others what we have accepted form Christ we in turn are denied them. Matthew 6:15 states that if we will not forgive others, than we will not be forgiven. I don't know about you but in my mind that is a pretty big deal. The premise is a simple yet powerful one. We need to make every effort to remain connected as a body of believers and representatives of Christ. Petty arguments, selfishness, and in-fighting serves no purpose other than to divide. Imagine standing before God looking back over your life and seeing all of the opportunities to add souls to the population of heaven that we have missed because we wanted to be offended, or we refused to forgive. Not so much between the two arguing parties, but those who are watching from the sidelines. As a family we never know who is observing us from a distance. The challenge for you this week is to step back and ask yourself "how am I representing my family to those I do not know are watching?" Consider both your immediate family as well as the church as an extension of your family. What can you see that needs to correction, and what can you see that you need to just let go? \_\_\_\_\_

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