

Family Matrix, Scary Security

Matthew 12:46-50

May 7, 2006
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Setting the Stage

- One of the great blessings in being added to the church is that we gain mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters in the faith (Matt. 19:29; Rom. 14:10-21; 16:1, 13; I Tim 1:2, 18; 5:1-2; Jas. 2:15-16).
- Titus 2:1-8 shows the family-like responsibility Scripture associates with all forms of Christ-likeness (Eph. 4:11-16).
- As the church, we are a body, (I Cor. 12:12-27; Rom. 12:3-8), and we are a building (Eph. 2:19-22), but the most frequently used descriptive terminology in the New Testament (almost 400 times) refers to our being a family (Gal. 1:2; Eph. 6:23; Col. 1:2; I Thess. 4:9; I Pet. 1:22; I Jn. 3:14; Matt. 19:29; Rom. 14:10-21; 16:1, 13; I Tim 1:2, 18; 5:1-2; Jas. 2:15-16, etc.).
- The family model is easily translated into a special strength in its every-day-life, relationship influence on the world (I Thess. 4:9-12; Col. 4:5-6; I Pet. 3:15).
- Jesus well understood the importance of the spiritual family and that importance implies many vital insights into how we are to work together to move forward successfully (Matt. 12:46-50).
- *And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the leader verbally instructs and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought and the leader in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the assent, saying Amen. –Justin Martyr (A. D. 110-165).*

Scary

- Relationships leave us vulnerable.
- Yet, without relationships, life is sterile and lonely.
- Islands in the storm are lonely, frightening places.

Security

- The church is to be a community (I Cor. 12:12-26).
 - Connections.
 - Network.
 - Common/fellowship/sharing (Acts 2:42-47).
 - Relationships of all kinds (Eph. 5:21-6:9).
- Congregational loyalty (Eph. 4:16; I Cor. 12:12-26).

As scary as is the vulnerability of open, honest, transparent relationships, separation is scarier. Family is the matrix in which Christianity is to express itself. The church universal is the largest expression of this, but the local congregation is the most practical, daily expression. Security in Jesus is found in His family.