

SERMON #1: Your Spiritual Family (the Church) is waiting for you **By Bob Young**

In the Bible, the phrase “spiritual family” is code for “church”

- Ephesians shows us some of the variety of metaphors to describe the church: church as body, family, building, dwelling place, bride/wife of Christ
- Ephesians also makes clear the importance of the church
 - God’s eternal purpose is fulfilled in the church
 - All of the saving work of God is exercised through Christ, through the church
 - We can understand the “spiritual family” by studying what the Bible says about the church
 - Some of the texts cited in this sermon may use another metaphor, for example, the church as body of Christ. But the point is the same: the church is our spiritual family.

What the Bible says about the Spiritual Family

- The NT defines the spiritual family as the church, Eph 2:19ff; 3:14-15; 1 Tim 3; 1 Pet 1
- Our physical families are very important to us; Jesus says the spiritual family is more important than the physical family
 - Luke 8, the family that matters is the spiritual family
 - Luke 6, 11, the spiritual family is characterized by those who hear and do God’s will
 - Luke 11, being part of the spiritual family is to receive a tremendous blessing
 - Jesus defines the spiritual family by its actions
 - Luke 8, 6, 11, the spiritual family is characterized by those who hear and do God’s will

What the Bible says about the church

1 Corinthians 12:12ff

Ephesians 4:1-16

A good summary (James 1:17ff)

Early Christians were admonished to....

- Hear the word and obey
- See and evaluate life clearly in the mirror of God’s word
- Change one’s life to experience the new life in Christ
- Experience the blessings that come to the spiritual family
- Come home to faithful Christian living

This knowledge requires a personal response, a biblical response

Your spiritual family is waiting....

What is your relationship to the spiritual family? Three primary possibilities in this group

In the family: active, hearing and doing, bless you

In the family but not actively involved: please listen carefully to the invitation plea

Outside the family: wanting to be inside

SERMON #2: Your Spiritual Father (God) is waiting for you

By Bob Young

[Note: I focused this topic with a sermon based on Luke 15 and the prodigal son]