

# Pictures of the People of God

## *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, April 3rd*

**Reflection:** Pictures & parables have many points of focus. Even words can have multiple definitions and/or applications, many of which are affected by our own experiences. Most define “church” as either a building or a loosely associated group of people. God sees his church much differently! The English word church comes from the Greek *kuriaskos*, meaning “*belonging to the Lord*.” The most common word in the New Testament for church is *ekklesia*, from *ek*: out & *Kaleo* (a calling). Taken together these two words mean the church is: “*a called out assembly of people that belong to the Lord!*” The Bible is filled with different “word pictures” that God uses to describe us. These help us better understand what He’s looking at (and for) when he sees us. For instance the Scriptures describe us as:

*Hidden Treasure* (Mt. 13:44); *Costly Pearls* (Mt 13:45,46); *Clay in a master potter’s hands* (Is. 64:8);

*A Bride engaged to Jesus* (Eph. 5:22-33; Rev. 19:7); *a Flock of Sheep* (Ps. 23; 100; Jn 10).

**Direction:** This morning we’ll focus on the fact that God sees us as part of His Family!

**How does someone become part of a family?**

Either by Birth/Conception {Jn 3:3; 1 Pt 1:21} Or by Adoption/Invitation {Ro. 8:15, 23; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5}

**God’s word uses both examples to illustrate the nature of His Family.**

Eph 2:18,19 *“For through him we have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God!”*

### 1. THIS DESCRIBES THE PRIVILEGE OF THE CHURCH 1 Jn 3:1-3

**A. We obtain His nature!** 2 Peter 1:3-4 *“his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature...”*

1) **When?** When we recognize and respond in faith (Trust) to the Gospel. Jn 3:16, Gal 2:8,9;

Rev. 3:20 *“Behold I stand at the door and knock (See Ro. 10:10) If any ...hear my voice and open the door, I will come in unto him”* (See also 2 Cor. 4:6; Jn 3:3-7)

2) **How?** By being born again by His Spirit. Tit 3:5-6 *“Not by works of righteousness ...but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

Gal. 4:4-7 *“God sent his Son...to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”*

Ro 8:15-16 *“we’ve received... the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”*

3) **Why:** To help us develop a “Family Likeness” Ro. 12:2 *“Be not conformed to this world, But transformed... ”*

2 Cor 3:18 *“we all...are changed, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

Ro. 8:28,29 *“predestined to be conformed to the image of his son.”*

**B. We share His Riches.** Ro 8:16-18 *“His Spirit bears witness that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

Eph. 1:18 *“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, And what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power”*

C. We bear His Name! Gal. 4:7 *"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son."*

Acts 11:26 *"the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch..."*

1) Christianos' (from Christos): anointed (Is 61:1-3) *"The Lord hath anointed me to..."*

a) What has God "anointed" you for? 1Pt 2:9 *"ye are chosen generation, a royal priesthood... that ye should show forth the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"*

2) Christos comes from chrio: to make contact!

a) The more "Contact" we make with Christ; *the more consistently we become "Like Christ!"*

Jn 15:4-5 *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."*

Acts 4:13 *"they marveled (thaumazo: wondered) and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."*

b) Your behavior reflects the degree of intimacy in your relationship with Jesus. (1 Pt 3:15)

3) That means our conduct reflects on Him and so, affects others!

a) Positively. Mt 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

b) Negatively Ro. 2:24 *"The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you"*

**Conclusion:** As Members of God's Family we:

Receive His Nature (Gal. 4:4-6); Share His Resources (2 Pt. 1:3-4); Bear His Name (Reputation) (Mt 5:16)

**Application:** With Great Privilege comes Great Responsibility!

An audience is a general group of unrelated people drawn together by a short lived attraction, event or interest.

A Church is a specific group of people who belong to the Lord and have been "called together" by Him to accomplish His purposes.

**Which most accurately describes us?**

*"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God- I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!*

*Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod; For I'm part of the family, the family of God.*

*You will notice we say brother and sister 'round here, It's because we're a family and these folks are near;*

*When one has a heartache, we all share the tears, And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear.*

*"From the door of an orphanage to the house of the King, No longer an outcast, a new song I sing;*

*From rags unto riches, from the weak to the strong, I'm not worthy to be here, but Praise God! I belong!"*

*Church is not something or someplace you go to;  
But a Family you belong to! (Heb. 10:23-25)*



**Who do you belong to?**