

The Family of God: We're All In This Thing Together

Pastor Steve

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:5 NLT

Key Verses of the Day

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. Romans 12:3-5 NLT

Key Thought of the Day

The good news is that if you are a Christian — you belong — you are part of _____.

In God's Family...

1. You _____.

What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

In God's Family...

2. You are _____.

"I--yes, I alone--am the one who blots out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again. Isaiah 43:25 NLT

In God's Family...

3. You are an _____.

For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we will share his treasures--for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. Romans 8:16-17 NLT

When we are part of God's family...

1. God wants to _____ us.

Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Romans 12:3

How Does God Want To Change Us?

- God wants to change how we _____ ourselves.

But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you... he who formed you... "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you. Psalm 139:16-18 NLT

Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful. Romans 12:12 NLT

- God wants to change our _____.
- Next, God wants to change our _____.

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. Romans 12:17-19 NLT

When we are part of God's family...

2. God wants to _____ us.

How Does God Want To Use Us?

- God wants us to _____ and use our _____.

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Romans 12:4-8

And now, dear brothers and sisters, I will write about the special abilities the Holy Spirit gives to each of us... 1 Corinthians 12:1 NLT

- God wants to use you to _____ people.

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! Romans 12:9-10, 14-16 NLT

...the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends. John 15:13

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."

- God wants to use us to be a _____ example.

Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. Romans 12:21 NLT

The Challenge

What does God want of you?

I believe God wants to...