



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

We are Family! October 26-28, 2019

(Hebrews 2:9-18) But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.¹⁰ In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.¹¹ Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.¹² He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

1. Did/do you know the name of the musical group that recorded the song, *We Are Family*? (Bonus: What baseball team used this as their theme song on the way to winning the World Series in 1979?)

Sister Sledge. The Pittsburgh Pirates

2. Agree/disagree: Everyone belongs to the Family of God. (cf. Gal. 3:26; John 1:10-13; Romans 8:12-16) **Although every human being has God as their creator, only Christians can correctly claim God as their Father. We were not naturally born into God's family. We were adopted, not by our doing/decision, but by his. He made us his children by working faith in our hearts through the Gospel in the Bible and Baptism. Without faith, we are separated from God forever.**

3. When (date?) did God make you his child? Why is that meaningful to you? **For most, this happened on the day of our baptism. (This is a good date for every Christian to know.) I had no role in my adoption. It was an act of pure grace on God's part. He initiated a relationship with me that continues to this day. Amazing.**

4. What comfort do you find in the fact that Jesus is your brother? (cf. Heb. 2:14-18) **God is not an impersonal force somewhere "out there." He became a human like me (yet without sin), so he can empathize with what I'm going through. He's my caring, loving brother. But he's also my BIG brother; he destroyed (i.e. rendered powerless) my worst Enemy, the devil.**

5. Agree/disagree: "A person doesn't have to go to church to be a Christian." **Technically, a person can become a believer by reading the gospel on the internet. But every sinner who appreciates the grace God has shown him will want to share/celebrate that good news with others. Those who don't want to gather with other Christians are disobeying God's will for their lives (Heb. 10:25) and may well be proving that they are not Christians at all (John 8:47).**

6. Why will members of God's family want to gather together? (cf. Heb. 10:22-27) **To feed their faith (Rom. 10:17) with Word and Sacrament; to encourage and be encouraged by others to produce good fruit; to cling to the hope they have; to pool resources to train workers, educate children, send out missionaries; to praise God with others, etc., etc. etc.**

7. What brought you into the Mount Olive family? (Share your story.)

8. Sometimes people become disconnected from their church family. What, if anything, can be done to prevent this from happening?

Ultimately, only the gospel can foil Satan's plan to separate people from the family of God. Laziness, spiritual apathy, bitterness and misplaced priorities must be lovingly addressed with Law and Gospel. Early intervention is important. But so is personal interaction. The church is still people who need people. When drifting members feel like no one knows them and no one needs them, they become easy marks for Satan.

9. Who did you "connect" with at the Mount Olive Family Reunion?

Did you learn anything about them? Did they learn anything about you? How many new names did you learn? It's not always easy to step out of our comfort zone, but the family benefits when we do.

10. Do you think Mount Olive should have Family Reunion again? (Please share your thoughts with a pastor.)