



In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
One God, Amen.

September 21st, 2008

Agenda

- Introduction to new school year.
 - Select class intercessor (out of two).
 - Classes start at 1:00pm and end at 1:45pm.
 - Attendance
- Hymn or spiritual song.
- Topic – Christian Youth and Family Life
 - “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another” (Romans 12:10).

Christian Youth and Family Life

Everyone thinks they understand what a family is. When asked the question “What constitutes a family?” a secular person might respond: “A father, mother and children”. In fact in this day even that definition is being put to trial. Regardless of how the world views a family, Christianity has very definitive and clear views of the familial relationships that are very different from the world’s views. Consider God himself and his relationship to humanity. God has underscored his fatherhood to us through adoption. He has showed us that he cares for us with greater intensity than a mother can care for her children. He has become a big brother to us and he has even allowed humans to be considered like His parents as he said “*For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.*” (Mark 3:35).

Definition of Christian Family

So the Christian family is not simply a father, mother and Children but it is the congregation of people that make up Christ’s body. Let us examine the various dimensions of the Christian family then:

- Parenthood
 - When God commanded the children of Israel saying “Honor thy father and they mother” He probably meant your physical parents, but He probably also wanted us to honor our spiritual fathers and mothers.
 - Our spiritual fathers could be those who are older than us, those who work in priesthood and those who guide us.
 - Similarly with our mothers for this is not a gender specific respect. In fact, it goes beyond even human terms as the church itself could be considered our mother that gave birth to us in the baptism.
- Brotherhood
 - So if our fathers and mothers are understood then who are our brothers? Are they not the weak and poor? Are they not those who are far away from God and need our help and support?

- Remember what Christ said *“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”* (Matt 25:40).
- Spousal Relationship
 - Finally how can we define the spousal relationship in a spiritual manner? Simple: our spirit is the bride of Christ which should love her beloved.

Functions of the Christian Family

A true Christian family has many responsibilities which include:

- Love for each other.
 - Love is every Christian’s primary responsibility. Love for God first then for our neighbor.
 - If we must love God then how can we not love our families through God?
 - We must be a primary example to others of our selfless love for by these people know that we Christ’s disciples.
- Being fruitful members of the church of God.
 - If we are all one family and one body then we must strive to be fruitful members of that body lest we be cut off.
 - We must maintain God as the center of our lives which will give stability and peace to the entire family.
- Being a testimony to the world.
 - We are the light of the world and through our good acts God’s name will be glorified.
 - These actions might include our chastity, decency, generosity, love, kindness, gentleness, etc.

May God give us the wisdom, understanding and love needed to become contributing members not just in our own families but in His family as well. Glory be to our God. Amen.