

We Are Family

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Philemon 1: 8-21

8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, 9 yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— 10 that I appeal to you for my **son** Onesimus, who **became my son** while I was in chains. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

12 I am sending him—who is **my very heart**—back to you. 13 I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. 14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.

15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— 16 no longer as a slave, **but better than a slave, as a dear brother**. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a **brother** in the Lord.

17 So if you consider me a partner, **welcome him as you would welcome me.** 18 If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. 20 I do wish, **brother**, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do **even more than I ask.**

1 John 3:1 (NIV)

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Mark 3:31-35

31 Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

33 "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

What does God's family look like

Love one another

John 13:34-35 (NKJV)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:35

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John 15:12

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Support one another

Pray for one another - for healing, for direction, for wisdom, for needs

Share with one another - **Hebrews 13:16** - But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Correct one another in love - **Galatians 6:1** - Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Hospitable towards one another - **Hebrews 13:2** - Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

Family breakers

- **Gossip**
- **Offence**
- **Unforgiveness**
- **Jealousy & envy**
- **Selfishness**
- **Pride & arrogance**

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.