

Christ's Family

MARK 3:31-35

5/9/2021

PREPARE *Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you read and study God's word.*

Read the verses slowly in your favorite translation. Record your insights and answers to the following questions.

- Why did Jesus use the family as His model for the church? What do people generally know about family, want from a family, and need from a family that makes it easy to see the connection between Jesus' followers and a family?
- Jesus defined His family as those who do the will of God. What does this mean? What is the first step one has to take to do God's will?
- What does Mark 3:31-35 teach us about God's priority for earthly and spiritual families? How can we reconcile Exodus 20:12 with Jesus' teachings in Luke 14:26 and Mark 3:33-35?
- Do you belong to Christ's family?
 - If yes, how would you describe your transformation to a non-believer? How would you openly and honestly describe what it's like to be a member of Christ's family? What challenges do you face balancing the responsibilities for your spiritual and earthly families?
 - If no, how would you describe your doubts about Christ's family to a believer? What would you like that person to know about your insights and perceptions based on what you experienced or read?
- As members of Christ's family, we must **love, restore, share, comfort & encourage**, and **pray** for one another. Read the following passages in light of these actions: Love (Ephesians 4:32-5:2); Restoration (Galatians 6:1); Sharing (Galatians 6:2); Comfort & encouragement (1 Thessalonians 5:11); Prayer (James 5:16). Choose one the passages from the list. Pray over it, meditate on it, and answer the following questions about it:
 - What sometimes keeps you from giving or receiving [*the action you chose*]? How does this impact Christ's family? How does it impact non-believers and the family's efforts to make Jesus known?
 - What expectations do you have for other family members concerning [*the action you chose*]? What expectations do you have for yourself?
 - How do you respond when members of Christ's family don't live up to your expectations? How do you respond when you don't live up to your own?
 - What can you do to be a better giver and/or receiver of [*the action you chose*]? How can Christ's family help you in this? What actions will you take?