

## Devotion for Sunday 26 September 2021

This passage from John's gospel is very comforting and I want to share this with you for this Sunday's devotion. I want you to reflect on it deeply before you read on. Allow the Spirit to show you God's love and what he has in mind for you. The text reads;

***“But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God”***

***John 1:12 - 13***

God's plan all along was to make us into a large family with Christ Jesus as head. Before the foundation of the world God had us in mind. He created us and then he adopted us as his very own children. But it came at a price. In order for us to be brought into God's family, his Son had to die. Jesus was the greatest expression of God's love. God sent his Son for us, fully human and fully God, to make a way for us to become a part of God's family. Jesus declaring, I am the way, the truth and the life. no one comes to the Father except through me.

Even before his death Jesus affirmed the importance of being a part of the family of God. Addressing the crowd, He said, whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother. Jesus stating that following him is far greater. Jesus takes priority. To be in the family of God means to be accepted for who we are: loved, cherished, celebrated, and fully forgiven. Our assurance is that, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, the new has come. He had chosen before the foundation of the world to have a family for Himself. He acted in time and history to make our salvation a reality. Praise the Lord!

This family of brothers and sisters in Christ is more deeply connected than any other relationships, even our earthly families! We share a spiritual unity through God our Father. John encourages us to deeply appreciate the kind of love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God. We are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. So, we are no longer strangers and aliens, but fellow citizens with all the members of the household of God, Christ Jesus himself being

the cornerstone, in the whole structure, being joined together, we grow into a holy temple in the Lord, into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

As sons and daughters of God, we pray, support and encourage each other, because though joyful, it is difficult. It takes everyone's talents and collective contributions to accomplish the purposes of God. However, we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand. Our talents and abilities are no accident, and when we work diligently with the gifts He has given us, we are able to become a channel of love to others. We are to put on, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another as the Lord has forgiven us. This is what it means to be in the family of God.

As we begin to view each other as members of God's family and as members of our family, our prejudices begin to crumble. To truly love and care for each other is to have a big picture of the family of God. As we recognize, accept, and embrace our new family, we experience the walls of hostility abolished, torn down and removed. Only in the family of God can people so distinctly different be the same counted as sisters and brothers in a new family. This is the right and the privilege that God has graciously given us and so let us live in it with each other and for each other.

May the Grace and Peace of God be with you all.

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