

The House of God

Introduction

1 Peter 4:17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at **the house of God**; and if it begins **with us** first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1. **In this text of scripture we can see that the church (those called out) are referred to the “house of God.”**
2. **This morning I want to examine this special relationship that those of us that are in the church have in the “House of God.”**

The Church Is the Family of God

1 Timothy 3:15 “..... I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the **house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

1. **In the Bible, the word house often means family.**

Acts 16:31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and **your household**."

Acts 10:1-2 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with **all his household**, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

2. **We learn that Jesus Christ is over the House of God.**

Hebrews 3:6

- A. **This would be equivalent as saying that He is the “Head of the body, the church” (Colossians 1:18).**

3. Therefore, those that are IN the church are IN the House of God.

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens with the saints** and **members of the household of God.**”

God Is the Father

1. All Christians are children or sons.

- A. **We have but one Father - our God in heaven**
(1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1).

Matthew 23:9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

- B. **The right to call ourselves children shows a degree of affection.**
1 John 3:1-3

Obligations

1. As children, we have obligations in God's house.

- A. **To do righteousness.**

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness **is not of God**, nor is he who does not love his brother.

B. To love our brethren.

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

1) Jesus, our great example tells us how and why:

John 13:34-35 A new **commandment** I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

C. In addition, we have an obligation to give God our Father all the glory.

Ephesians 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

Blessings

1. As children in God's house, we have certain blessings. We are heirs of God.

A. We are heirs according to the promise made to Abraham even before the Law of Moses was given.

**1) Heir - "one who inherits or is entitled to inherit another's property or title upon the other's death."
Galatians 3:15-18, 26-29**

B. We are joint heirs with Christ - if we're His children

Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

2. **God's children have His correction and chastening.**
 - A. **All of God's children are chastened by the Word of God**
Hebrews 12:5-11
 - B. **Children of God follow Him even as sheep follow their shepherd.**
John 10:27
 - C. **The children in God's house understand that all they do must be done by the authority of Jesus (Colossians 3:17).**
3. **God's children can approach Him, because they listen to Him.**
 - A. **Jesus teaches how the Father is to be approached:**
Matthew 6:8-15
 - B. **His children are blessed in that they know that God will answer them.**
Matthew 7:7-11
 - C. **However, those that refuse to listen and obey the Father, will not be heard.**
Proverbs 1:24-33
4. **God's children can find a way of escape from sins.**
 - A. **Those in the House of God have a Father that will not permit temptation greater than His children can bear.**
1 Corinthians 10:13
 - B. **Jesus escaped temptations (Matthew 4) and is our great example.**
1 Peter 2:21

How Can One Become a Member of The House of God?

1. Hear the gospel message of God
(Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6)
2. Believe the message of God
(Romans 10:10; John 8:24)
3. Repent (turn around) of your sins, turning to serve God
(Acts 17:30, Luke 13:3)
4. Confess Jesus as the Son of God
(Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37)
5. Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins
(Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful life in obedience to God's instruction
(Revelation 2:10)

SEE CHART (Seed, Field, Sower)

Conclusion

- 1. One cannot be a child of God and not be in God's family, the church.**
- 2. Those in the house of God, love one another, we even refer to one another as brother or sister.**
- 3. There is no closer relationship than that of the family. Children of God in the house of God, who genuinely care for one another as Christ cares for us!**
- 4. May all of us that are in God's House be determined to remain faithful to our Father until the end of our earthly days.**
- 5. If you are here this morning and not yet in the House of God, why not become a member of the Lord's church today through obedience to the gospel?**

