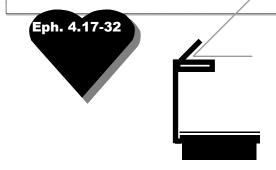


Introduction: As a member of Christ's "body" in this place, you are a "child" in God's family. When you were baptized you became a "child of God by faith" (Gal. 3.26-27) and you were "born again" (John 3.3-5). This new birth gave you a new relationship with other Christians who have obeyed God in the same way, a new family, as it were, a spiritual family. That relationship is described by God in many ways. Like the facets of a prism, each figure of speech conjures up a different aspect of the I'm a husband, father, same relationship. elder...there are difference aspects of the same person. It is important to understand the value of having been "added to the church" (Acts 2.47) and use the proper language when referring to it.

EXPERIENCE OBSERVATION:

Sometimes this new relationship causes problems with our "blood" family. They may have difficulty understanding why we feel such an obligation to, and bond with, the members and they feel hurt that our service to the Lord is affecting our relationship with them; maybe even causing conflicts in scheduling and the like. Or maybe they don't understand that you are finished with your old life and decided to do something new and better. 1 Peter 4.3~5 Effective cures for possible trouble in this area include these three P's: Prayer, Patience, and Practicing what you preach. By way of establishing a method of consistency in our practice, I suggest the following three concepts:

- 1) Obey **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS** from God. Col. 3.5-11
- 2) Apply **PRINCIPLES** which God established. Phil 2.1-12
- 3) Accept **RESPONSIBILITY** for your influence on others. I Cor. 8.10-13



Your New Relationship

Lesson 5

NEW RELATIONSHIPS SUGGESTED

Family	Mark 10.28-30; Gal. 6.10; Eph. 3.15		
Vine	John 15.1~6		
Body	Rom. 12.4~8; I Cor. 12.12~27; Eph. 4.16		
Building	I Cor. 3.9~10; Eph. 2.21		
Husbandr	y/Field I Cor. 3.9		
Kingdom	Mat. 13.38, James 2.5		
Of what do each of these figures make you think and			
what aspects of the relationship might be learned			
from these descriptive terms?			

ADDED to the church, which is a...

FAMILY (member)

Galatians 6.10	first help (spiritual aid)
Ephesians 3.15	same name

VINE (branch)

John 15.4	continuous life source
John 15.5	identical fruit

BODY (member, part)

Romans 12.4-8shared directionI Cor. 12.12-27shared painEphesians 2.16shared bloodEphesians 3.6shared promiseCol. 2.9; Eph. 4.16shared growthColossians 1.18shared headColossians 3.15shared peace

BUILDING (part, block, brick)

I Cor. 3.9-10 Ephesians 2.21

HUSBANDRY/FIELD (laborer)

common foundation

interdependent

children

heirs

I Corinthians 3.9 fertile, tilled ground

KINGDOM (citizens, subjects)

Mt. 13.38 James 2.5

The church is not a club, organization, or entity apart from its integral parts—the **Christians** who comprise it.