

ALL IN THE FAMILY?

MATTHEW 12:46-50

The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are at opposite sides of the same coin.

-A.W. Tozer

I. The Assumption of Family

II. The Assurance of Family

Getting to Know You:

1. What is the most distinctive feature you would identify as a recognizable family resemblance in your family?

Into the Bible:

2. We enter into our earthly family at birth. What is the parallel to this in our spiritual life? (John 1:12-13, John 3:1-5; Ephesians 1:5)

3. Given the importance of family in Middle Eastern cultures, Jesus' emphasis here in redefining his family must have shocked his listeners. Seemingly though, he doubles down on this distinction in Matthew 10:37 and Luke 14:25-26. Jesus did care for his earthly family, so what is his emphasis in these passages? How does this apply to us and our family relationships?

Application:

4. Sometimes people outside our family circle are quick to recognize what we sometimes miss—the family resemblance. Paul argues in I Corinthians 11:1 that we should be imitators of Christ. How do others see our resemblance to Christ in our lives? (Ephesians 5:1-2, John 13:35)

For Families:

5. Talk with your children about what it means to be children of God.