

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

February 2022

Greetings in the name of the Lord,

This month we are going to continue to look at our identity in God. Last month we talked about how God reconciled us thru His Son, Jesus, and how we were created for Him to love and us to love Him. Did you know that: *“God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.”* (Ephesians 1:5 NLT)

The whole reason you exist is because God wanted you to become part of His family.

Your spiritual family, God’s family, is going to outlast even your physical family. Physical families don’t last. They grow up, they move away, they pass away. But the spiritual family of God will live on and on for eternity.

God never meant for you to go through life alone. We were created to be in relationship with God and each other. The truth is, God hates loneliness. When God created man, he put him in the Garden of Eden—a perfect environment—and the first thing God said was, “It is not good for man to be alone.” God wants you to be part of his family. Now I am probably going to step on toes here but read and think about this before you react! So, God said: *“It is not good for man to be alone....”* (Gen 2:18). God made Adam a helper, comparable to him (woman) and the purpose was for relationship. The key, is God’s expectation was that we are in relationship with those who are also made in God’s image, remember this was before the fall of man. Adam was made in God’s image... therefore without sin... Eve was made from Adam as his helpmate.... also without sin. When sin entered into the picture and sin separated Adam and Eve (mankind/personkind), there then became only sinful people which is why Jesus was needed to reconcile US, (sinful personkind) back into the SIN-LESS family of God. So, when I am speaking about family here, there is an important reality, we as believers must accept, and more importantly honor, and that is, we are only to be in relationship with other believers in the family of God.

The Bible is very clear about being unequally yoked, 2 Cor 6:1-18, 1 Cor 7:12-15, 2 Tim 3:5, Deut. 7:3-4, 1 Pet 3:1, Eph 5:11, 2 Thess. 3:6, 1 Cor 7:1-40, 3 John 1:11, 1 Pet 3:7, 2 John 1:9, Deut. 22:10, Matt 7:16-20, Amos 3:3, 1 Thess. 5:21, 1 Cor 15:33 and these are not all). This is not just unequally yoked as husband and wife but all committed relationships, personal and business. Now realistically, we don’t all work for people who know God, but if I were going into a committed relationship like a business partnership, or a marriage partnership, God says, it is to be with a person in God’s family.

What does God’s family look like? The Bible says, *“That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth”* (1 Timothy 3:15 NCV). The church, the body of Christ, is not an institution. The church is not a bureaucracy, an organization, or a social club. The church is God’s family. It’s not about rules and regulations, rituals, and religion. It’s about relationships. And it’s about love.

The church is “the support and foundation of the truth.” What happens when a building has no support and foundation? It collapses. People who live in earthquake-prone areas understand this more than most. If you don’t have a good foundation under your building, it’s going to collapse when an earthquake comes.

God says that your life works the same way. You're going to have some earthquakes; they may be financial, emotional, relational, health, or career earthquakes. And when tough times come along (you notice I said "when") and you don't have a spiritual family to support you, you'll collapse.

You can't fulfill God's purposes by yourself. God wired you to need other people. With the strong support of the family of God, you'll have the secure foundation you need to stand through life's challenges. So How can you do that? Well, first you need to know, and believe who you are in Christ! If you know who you are in Christ → you will know what your family, traits/attributes should have too.

So, let's look at this a little closer. Who does God say you are?

### **You're a saint.**

The fact that you've placed your trust in Jesus Christ is enough to qualify you to be a saint. Even though you'll still struggle with sin while you live in this fallen world, your core identity as a Christian is as a saint, not a sinner – and you can always count on Jesus' help to overcome sin in your life. Rely on His help to resist temptation. When you do sin, confess and repent. Maintain attitudes of humility and gratitude for God's grace.

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

*"being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light..." (Colossians 1:11-13).*

*"Love the Lord, all you saints! The Lord preserves the faithful..." (Romans 8:27)*

*"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height" (Ephesians 3:17)*

### **You're blessed.**

God has given you the greatest blessing of all – Himself. No matter what other blessings God may or may not choose to send into your life, you can always be confident that God Himself will be with you, loving you, and working everything in your life out for good purposes when you trust Him to do so. God also brings many different, specific blessings into your life regularly. Make a habit of reflecting on those blessings every day (or every week) and thanking Him for them. Keep a thankful journal, write in it daily, see yourself grow in thankfulness and in your identity!

*"Blessed is the one who does not walk in the step with the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is a like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do prospers." (Psalm 1:1-3).*

*"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)*

### **You're appreciated.**

God notices and appreciates *every* good choice you make throughout your life – even when other people don't. So, change the way you live as a result. Exchange grumbling for praying, competing for celebrating, bitterness for thankfulness, performing for serving, and boasting for encouraging.

*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)*

*"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)*

### **You're saved.**

Thanks to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, you're saved from: sin, death, Satan, your old human nature, and a pattern of worldly living. You can respond in gratitude to your salvation by doing good works that God has prepared for you to do, to help others discover relationships with Him and help redeem this fallen world.

*"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." (Romans 10:9-10)*

*"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

*"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24)*

### **You're reconciled.**

Jesus has spiritually reconciled you to God and other believers. Since God plans for all Christians – from all the diverse types of backgrounds on Earth – to live harmoniously together in heaven forever, you should do your best to live harmoniously here and now. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be peaceful, humble, and compassionate toward other people.

*"For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." (Romans 5:10-11)*

*"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13)*

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)*

### **You're afflicted.**

Everyone in this fallen world – Christians and non-Christians alike – must endure suffering. However, as a Christian, your suffering can accomplish good, redemptive purposes. Rather than asking "Why?" when you suffer, ask "Who?" instead, shifting your focus from trying to figure out something that you may not be able to understand and toward seeking God Himself, who promises to always be with you. Ask Jesus to use the suffering you experience to make you more like Him and point more people to Him.

*"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." (1 Peter 5:8-10)*

*"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." (2 Corinthians 4:16-17)*

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)*

### **You're heard.**

God *always* hears and responds to your prayers when you're connected to Him through Jesus. Feel free to confidently express any of your thoughts and feelings to God at any time, expecting Him to listen to you and answer your prayers according to what's best for you.

*"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:12-13)*

*"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (1 Peter 3:12)*

*"And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John 5:15)*

### **You're gifted.**

God has given you special abilities that He wants you to use in the Christian ministry work He calls you to do – both inside your church, and out in your community. You can discover those gifts by asking yourself questions like: "Whom/where do you have a passion to serve?", "What do you have a burden to do?", "What needs do you see in the church?", "What do you find joy in doing for others?", "What opportunities has God already provided for you to serve others?", "What things are you best at and have the most success in?", "What have godly people commended you for doing?", and "What acts of service have given you the deepest sense of satisfaction?"

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)*

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10-11)*

*"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:4-8)*

### **You're new.**

Jesus placed a new spirit within you when you began a relationship with Him, so, at your core, you're a new person than who you were before you became a Christian. However, you'll keep learning and growing every day for the rest of your life as you gradually become more like Jesus.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3)*

*"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:22-24)*

### **You're forgiven.**

Since Jesus paid the price that God's justice demands for your sin and took God's wrath for you upon Himself, you were forgiven for all your sins (past, present, and future), when you placed your trust in Jesus. You can thank Jesus for forgiving you by obeying His commands to forgive others who have harmed you and to seek forgiveness from people you've harmed.

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)*

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

*"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:11-12)*

### **You're adopted.**

As a Christian, you've been adopted into God's family. The work of your big brother – Jesus – on the cross has made it possible for you to become one of the sons or daughters of God the Father. So, make your main goal of life learning how to know, love, and trust God as your Father.

*"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." (Romans 8:15-17)*

*"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:26-29)*

*"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will" (Ephesians 1:4-5)*

### **You're loved.**

While the people who love you can't do so completely unselfishly, continually, or perfectly, God does. As a Christian, nothing can ever separate you from God's great love for you.

*"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39)*

*"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:7-11)*

### **You're rewarded.**

God will reward you for everything faithful and holy that you do as a Christian. Although you can't earn your salvation, after you've been saved you can earn rewards in heaven for the work you do serving God on Earth.

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3:23-24)*

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)*

### **You're victorious.**

Jesus has given you the power to ultimately overcome evil, sin, and death. Use the spiritual weapons at your disposal as a Christian (truth, righteousness, the Gospel, faith, salvation, scripture, prayer, and the strength to stand) in spiritual battles, trusting that you can always emerge victorious.

*"for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." (1 John 5:4)*

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)*

*"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)*

Once we know who we are in Christ then we can join with other believers and "in unity" storm the gates of hell and bring heaven to earth. Enlarging God's family on the way. One soul at a time!!!

Are you ready? Who are you and more importantly, Whose are you?

Blessings in this new year 2022,

## ***Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)***

***If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com)***

***Christ's***

***Heart***

***In***

***Every***

***Felon***