

# GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

Although man has rebelled and disobeyed his Creator, Almighty God still desires to have a lasting fellowship based on love with the one creature, whom God made in His image. A good relationship with God is partly dependent upon a right response of faith by the believing sinner. *“He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”* (II John 9) So, what does having both the Father and the Son entail?

Fellowship with God is a spiritual union, a spiritual sharing and a spiritual joining together as members of a family. Believers who are diligently abiding in God's word are God's children, reaping all the blessings that come from being under the care and guidance of their heavenly Father (cf. I John 3:1). In accord with His love, grace and will, He takes in spiritual orphans into His heavenly family. This is accomplished by an adoption through Jesus Christ (cf. Ephesians 1:5). *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”* (Galatians 3:26) *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”* (Romans 8:16-17)

This family of God and Christ is synonymous with the church Jesus built. The saved whom Jesus adds to the church (Acts 2:47; 5:14) are members of the one body of whom He is the Savior (Ephesians 5:23). His body and church are the same relationship of reconciled souls to God in Christ (Ephesians 2:16; II Corinthians 5:18-19). Thus, this fellowship with the Father and the Son is portrayed as the household of God. Paul told Timothy, *“I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house [household] of God, the church of the living God”* (I Timothy 3:15). The church is not an impersonal structure or organization, but a relationship described and viewed by God as His family – brethren under the care of the Father.

A misunderstanding of the uniqueness of God's household leads to a failure to reciprocate love and to fulfill responsibilities as children. Sons ought to reflect the instruction and character of the heavenly Father. *“As obedient children, not conforming to the former lusts, ... but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct”* (I Peter 1:15). Children ought to honor parents (cf. Ephesians 6:1-2). God the Father is worthy to receive honor from His family by way of spiritual sacrifices, which are pleasing to Him (cf. I Peter 2:5, 9-10). The family fellowship Christians enjoy with God in the church is a precious relationship that calls for proper expressions of respect, love and obedience.