

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#44: Place in the Family and Household of God.

Note that this positional truth has a different focus from other positional truths that we have studied. It highlights our relationship with fellow believers rather than *solely* our relationship with God. Most positional truths have to do with our new standing with God (e.g., justification, sanctification, reconciliation, propitiation, redemption), while this one deals with our standing alongside other believers. While this positional truth cannot be divorced from relationship with God, nonetheless, the focus is on fellow believers. When a person believes in Jesus Christ, he is placed in the family of God, i.e. the family of all believers. At salvation each believer is related to every other believer, positionally speaking. In God's eyes every believer is related closer to each other, by virtue of the new birth, than to unbelieving family members and friends.

An outward expression of this truth is in the local church. It is important for every believer to be part of a local church. It is unfortunate that many Christians are so "individualized" in their orientation that they forget the fact that God has placed them in the Body of Christ. It is unhealthy for believers to so isolate themselves from fellow believers that they become "Lone Rangers." I have seen firsthand just how messed up believers can become by being isolationists. It is healthy to be around other believers—even if some of them are a bit obnoxious (you are going to have to spend eternity with them anyway). A sure sign that there is disorientation to the Family of God is when unbeliever friends become more important and *meaningful* than fellow believers. This is only possible when some temporal compatibility is more important than eternal realities. I am not saying that we should not enjoy our unbeliever friends; many times they are more fun than some believers. What I am saying is that every believer has been placed in the family of God for many reasons. Read the New Testament epistles and note the emphasis on our attitude toward fellow believers. Show me a believer who has distanced himself from fellow believers or a local church ministry, and I will show you a believer who is either off into the cosmic tulies with his unbeliever friends or is very arrogant in thinking he is the only one who is truly positive to Bible doctrine. He either becomes like a Demas (2 Tim. 4:10) or is in the process of developing an Elijah complex ('Oh God, I am the only positive one'). The New Testament knows nothing of a Lone Ranger or Rambo Christian. Some of the worst believers I have ever met are arrogant muckrakers who are too good to "grace" a local church with their presence, yet they habitually spew out their venomous criticisms against fellow believers and local churches—it certainly is an easy [read 'cowardly'] way to justify their own self-righteous isolation.

We are all in the family of God with different gifts and at different stages in our spiritual lives. We are blessed with so many positive believers at FBC who have wonderful insights into the Plan of God precisely because they are growing in Truth, and through interactions with others, who are *also* growing in Truth, gain a more precise and exhaustive understanding of Truth. As iron sharpens iron so they sharpen each other (Prov. 27:17). I am often amazed at some of the questions I get after Bible class. They always led me to advance my thinking of God and

Truth in new areas. Thank you, fellow believers. Thank God for the FBC budding doctrinal philosophers and metaphysicians who keep me on my toes.

God's Word on the Family and Household of God.

Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

Galatians 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and **especially** to those who are of the household of the faith.

On the Glory Road (along with other believers!),

Pastor Don