



FAMILY MATTERS



As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, my family and I recently got back from vacation, and can I just say, I LOVE my family. I love it spending time with just the four of us. Whether it's traveling, conferences, or playing board games, our little group of four is my joy.

As we were on vacation, it got me thinking about family in general.

Most of you probably don't know my family background. I have two older sisters and my parents got divorced when I was 9 years old. Both my mom and my dad remarried, so now I also have a stepdad and stepmom. Because of that, I also have a half-brother and two stepbrothers.

With two sets of parents, I had multiple sets of grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, etc. Then, as family members got married, and I got married myself, the family expanded exponentially.

I'm sure you can relate.

We have other people in our lives who are like family as well. Friends over the years who are like brothers and sisters, children, etc., who are not part of your family biologically, but relationally.

But even though I have this family, I am also part of another family: the family of God.

When I gave my life to Christ at salvation, I became part of His family. This is the doctrine of adoption.

Romans 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



I was a spiritual orphan because of my sin, yet God, in His grace and mercy, adopted me as one of His own through the sacrificial blood of Jesus. I am His child by faith!

If you have surrendered your life to Christ through repentance and faith, you also are an adopted child of God—you are part of His family too!

I am your brother, and you are my brother/sister! We are all part of the same spiritual family through Christ!

How often do we take the time to STOP & Consider this wondrous work of adoption into God's family? I'm sure not often enough.

It is through this familial connection that others are part of my family too—and this family is even more vast than my biological one!

It reminds me of some of our international counselors at Bancroft over the years: Josh Vega from Honduras, Mike Weber from Germany, Andre Gross from Germany, Chams Wijesekera from England, and Balint Jezsoviczky from Hungary to name a few. All these individuals are part of my family through Christ as well (not to mention the Bancroft family)!



It's amazing to consider not only God's wondrous work of adopting us as part of His family, but also how He graciously surrounds us with brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. We are all united in Him!

We live in a world that's always on the GO, so take a moment today to STOP & Consider your family—your ENTIRE family both biological, relational, and spiritual.

Take the time to thank the Lord for His grace in blessing you with the family that you have, and more importantly, adopting you into HIS family.

Derrick Marrs
Ministry Director



EPISODE 6 IS LIVE!

Have you listened or watched our podcast yet?

Episode 6: No Man Is An Island is available TODAY! If you haven't taken the time to STOP & Listen, we would encourage you to give it a spin.

You can listen while you drive, have it playing in the background as you work, or gather the family around like its story time!



If you aren't familiar with podcasts or how to listen to them, feel free to simply visit our website and listen from there. Here is the link for your convenience:

www.bancroftgospelministry.org/stopandconsider

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New episodes drop every two weeks, and as always, THANKS for listening!



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JOIN THE CLUB!



FALL RETREATS!



Fall Retreats are just around the corner! Both retreats are **ONLY** \$65/camper!

Don't forget to sign up for a great weekend!

Deadline for JUNIOR RETREAT registration is Wednesday, October 22!

JUNIOR RETREAT: OCTOBER 24-25

TEEN RETREAT: OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 1

REGISTER NOW

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