

WORD 2022

- Ephesians 3:14-21 So I bow in prayer before the Father 15 from whom every **family** in heaven and on earth gets its true name. 16 I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. 17 I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love. 18 And I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love — how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is. 19 Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.
- 20 With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine. 21 To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever. Amen. NCV

WORD 2022

Fathers

Atmosphere – Awareness - Anticipation

Mothers

Investment – Involvement - Interaction

Look Around!

You

The Church is a Family

- Metaphors describe what the church is like or similar to—light, flock, field, building—but family is not metaphorical; it is a literal description of the phenomena we know as church.
- The church is not *like* family; it *is* family.

The Christian Identity as Family

- Matthew 3:17 “This is my beloved Son”
- In our adoption as sons, we are brought into the experience of what God has always been.
- **Romans 8:15-17** So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as **his own children**. Now we call him, "**Abba, Father.**" 16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. 17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. NLT

- **Romans 8:23-24** And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day **when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children**, including the new bodies he has promised us. NLT
- **Galatians 4:4-7** But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, **so that he could adopt us as his very own children. 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."** 7 Now you are no longer a slave but **God's own child.** And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. NLT
- **Ephesians 1:5-8** **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. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. 8 He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. NLT

What Does Your Church Believe?

- If you say you believe something but don't practice it, do you really believe it?
- Our problem is semantics. **When we say church, we don't think family.** We have to understand that we are not simply planting a church, we are not starting a Bible study, we are not starting a 501-c3; *we are establishing a family.*
- **Father's**
 - God as "Father"
 - O.T. God as Father!
 - N.T. God as Father!
 - God's Father Heart!
 - Earthly Father's
 - God's Design
 - Fulfilling Fatherhood
 - Spiritual Father's

Atmosphere – Awareness – Anticipation

- A surrounding influence or environment (Webster Dictionary)
- **8 Atmosphere's Every Church Needs To Have: By: Jentzen Franklin**
 - **1. Godly Atmosphere:**
 - **2. Grace Atmosphere:**
 - **3. Gathering Atmosphere:**
 - **4. Growing Atmosphere:**
 - **5. Generational Atmosphere:**
 - **6. Generous Atmosphere:**
 - **7. Guiding Atmosphere:**
 - **8. Great Atmosphere:**
- Do we pray and believe for something beyond the ordinary when we are together as a family?

Mother's

- Mothering characteristics of God
- Earthly Mother's
 - God's Design
 - Fulfilling Motherhood
- Spiritual Mother's

Investment

- Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the Talents
- a devoting, using, or giving of time, talent, emotional energy, etc., as for a purpose or to achieve something: (Dictionary.com)
- Involvement – (Dictionary.com) - an act or instance of being included, or of including someone or something, in an action, process, group, etc.:
 - an act or instance of having one's interest, emotions, or commitment engaged by someone or something:
- Interaction - (Dictionary.com) - reciprocal action, effect, or influence.

Look Around

- **John 4:34-35** Jesus said, "The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work he started. 35 **As you look around right now**, wouldn't you say that in about four months it will be time to harvest? Well, I'm telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what's right in front of you. These Samaritan fields are ripe. It's harvest time! The Message
- Attention - (Dictionary.com)
 - observant care; consideration:
- Attentive - (Dictionary.com)
 - thoughtful of others; considerate; polite; courteous:

You

- 2 Sam 12:7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: NCV
- You are responsible for your actions
- You are responsible for your responses
- You are responsible or in charge of your own happiness!!