

Welcome Home Sunday #1

Sermon Road Map
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Hebrews 2:9-18
October 20, 2019

Welcome Home to your family. Jesus makes us family.

- Home tugs at our heart - making Thanksgiving the most traveled day
- Homecoming weekend - a draw to our *alma mater*
- Church as a home? Maybe your home church, church of your youth, ...
 - ♦ Many have found Peace to be a home away from home.
 - ♦ Has it been for you? A little? Not quite? Sadly I've seen that too.
- What makes a place home? A place where the people are family.
 - ♦ A place where you love & are loved - warts and all
 - ♦ A place of history, track record of mutual care, forgiveness, memories
 - ♦ A place with a sense of stability - always welcome back
 - ♦ *Home interprets heaven. Home is heaven for beginners.* Charles Henry Parkhurst

❖ The stunning truth: Jesus claims us as his family.

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should (bring) the pioneer of their salvation (to his goal) through what he suffered. blend NIV & EHV

- God's goal is clear: to bring us back into his family.
- Examine the common claim: *We're all God's children. (all humans)*
 - ♦ Yes, but...! God made Adam and Eve in his image - to be his children.
 - ♦ Their rebellious self-determination rejected God as their Father.
 - ♦ *We're all renegade children* - deserting and betraying our Father/family
- God's goal is to reclaim us - win our hearts/minds - restore us as his kids.
Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.
- **Stunning:** Jesus is not ashamed to call us his siblings.
 - ♦ Families are destroyed when a member brings shame on the family
 - A drunken father. Addicted mother. Lazy dishonest deceitful brother. Sister known for being known by many men.
 - Our antifamily impatience, grumbling, self-justifying, self-centered - all despise our Father & his family - dismiss life, hope, peace in him.
 - Jesus has every reason to be ashamed to call us his siblings
 - Instead, with love he's determined to make us into his family...
 - ♦ Jesus became our flesh and blood brother dwelling in this sin swamp
 - One of us, without sin, to pay for all our sins by dying in our place
 - One of us, to be the holy obedient child God requires, for us
 - One of us who knows suffering and trial to empathize with us

- ♦ Jesus frees us from the Devil's family of renegades.
¹⁴ *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil —* ¹⁵ *and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

- Those who die outside God's family - remain outside his family forever
- The universal terrorist is death. The terror of death - universal driver
 - living in denial/ignore/cover up or filled with hope robbing despair
- Jesus' victory over death frees us - restores us back into God's family
 - Fully forgiven, covered in Jesus' righteousness, God's children

❖ Made God's family, we're called to live as family.

- We choose our friends. God chooses our family & church family.
¹² *He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises."*
- God's family is gathered to our Brother Jesus - an assembly around him.
 - ♦ Assembled, Jesus is here with us.
For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Mt. 18:20
 - Jesus is here to proclaim God's praise - God's revealed truth
 - In Lesson, Liturgy, Proclamation (sermon & Creed), and song
 - The Word forms God's Family. God's family is drawn to the Word.
 - Jesus gathers his family around his Feast of Forgiveness - Communion
- Our Church Home *interprets heaven* - one big eternal family in Christ.
 - ♦ Down here there are challenges to our church family life.
 - Families with full schedules, prioritize church time - not family time.
 - Privacy, self-sufficiency, past disappointments keep it shallow/surface
 - Younger generation that values *authenticity* - tests the family. If they don't feel it - look elsewhere. Sadly cults are "good" at being "family"
 - ♦ Seek the full blessings of being family in Christ. **Be family** in Christ.
 - Those who think and act like family, feel it - the joy and sadness.
 - Participate in worship as speaking to each other, not just God.
 - Make time to get to know each other. Arrive early. Stick around.
 - Get to know each other. Go visit members who can't get out.
 - Plan time together - church activity or time together
 - Authenticity begins with each of us, celebrating *we are family*.
 - ♦ *Can they be that close... We're giving love in a family dose.* Sister Sledge
 - ♦ Not the world's love. The new unique love we know in Jesus.
 - ♦ Forgiving. Healing. Guiding. Encouraging. Gently correcting.
 - ♦ Those who welcome Jesus' rescue - welcome brotherly care.

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