

**“We Are Family”**  
**Ephesians 2:19-22**  
**Sermon Series: “Be Rich”**

**Introduction:** We saw a couple of weeks ago that to be in the church is to be a citizen of God’s Kingdom. The image we are looking at today in Ephesians 2:19 is that we are “members of the household of God.” “Household” is a word that refers to a family. So, we don’t go to church, but we are the church. To be the church is to be part of God’s family. How does this work practically?

**Main Idea: We are united together in the church as members of God’s family.**

**1. We are children of God adopted by the Father (Galatians 4:4-7).** Sin separates us from God, but He sent Jesus to redeem us from our sins so that He could adopt us into His family as His sons and daughters.

**2. We are brothers and sisters in Christ with Jesus as our big brother (Hebrews 2:9-11, Romans 8:29).** As adopted children of God, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. However, Jesus is “the firstborn among many brethren.” This means that He is uniquely the Son of God, but He relates to those of us who are in union with Him as His brothers and sisters. We are joint-heirs with Him (Romans 8:17). This is a mind-boggling truth. He is **THE Son of God** yet He stooped to become one of us and suffer and die for us. Therefore, He is worthy of worship, but He is also our friend who identifies with us in our temptations and trials because He became one of us (Hebrews 4:14-16).

**3. We are united together in the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3).** We are united together by the Spirit in God’s family. We are commanded to live in unity because the Spirit has united us together.

**4. We share a common life together in Christ (1 John 1:1-4).** The word, “fellowship,” means “common life.” We often think of fellowship as something we do (like a fellowship meal), but it is really the common life we share together in Jesus. We have fellowship with Him and each other.

**5. We are to share life together as a healthy family.** Here are some characteristics of functioning as a healthy family:

**A. Love (Romans 12:10, John 13:34-35).**

**B. Care for each other (Galatians 5:13, 6:2, 1 Corinthians 12:25-26, 1 Peter 4:9).**

**C. Spiritually build each other up (Romans 14:19, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Peter 4:10-11).**

**D. Handle conflict in a godly way (Matthew 18:15-17, Ephesians 4:32).**

**Conclusion:**

**1. Make sure you have been adopted into God’s family through faith in Jesus Christ.**

**2. Function as a member of God’s family instead of acting like a Long Ranger Christian.**

**3. Get plugged into a small group.**