

Complete in the Family of God

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

The family is an institution established by God early in His creation. It started with a man and a woman, and He designed it to provide an environment where children can grow in the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord.

Satan, of course, noticed the premium God placed on the family. So immediately after his fall, he set in motion a plan to fracture the family structure and cause division. He used deception to drive a wedge between husbands and wives. That diabolical effort continues today, evident in the skyrocketing divorce and separation rates.

Jesus Christ came to defeat Satan's master plan. His death, burial, and resurrection opened the way for us to become sons and daughters of God the Father (John 1:12). His Blood covers us, and it makes all Christians members of His eternal family.

This booklet examines the reasons why Satan attacks the concept of family and reveals

the deep reality of who we are in Christ and why we can never be divorced from Him.

Chapter One

WHAT THE DEVIL LOST

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

“And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:7-9).

“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy

mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

“Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

“By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee” (Ezekiel 28:13-17).

“And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” (Luke 10:18).

Lucifer was in a family in heaven. He was created as a perfect being, with a free volition. In heaven, he was beautiful all of his days. The Word of God tells us that Lucifer had a covering of stones—*sardius, topaz, diamond, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle*. These nine stones were his covering. Yet, though God created Lucifer as perfect (Ezekiel 28:15), the Word of God declares that he profaned the sanctuary.

Furthermore, a third of the angels were cast down, with Lucifer, to the earth, because they became familiar with doctrine and familiar with God (Revelation 12:4).

The stones for Lucifer's covering stood for the nine fruits of the Spirit, in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and temperance. The first three represent God's character operating inwardly. The next three speak of God's character reflected outward to the world. The final three represent God's character in us going upward.

New Stones for New Life

While Lucifer's garment had nine stones adorning it, the high priest was covered with twelve—an additional three stones that were not a part of Lucifer's covering. The high priest, whose office was fulfilled by the great High Priest Jesus Christ, possessed three additional characteristics that Lucifer did not have.

The breastplate of the high priest, as described in Exodus 25 and 35, was adorned with twelve stones. Not all of them were expensive gems, as we think of them. In addition to representing the twelve tribes of Israel, each stone

also represented distinct characteristics of God.

Ligure was one of those stones, and it stood for obedience. It points to the obedience of Christ who said, "I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O Lord" (see Hebrews 10:7). Christ was obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross (Philippians 2:8). Christ's obedience to the Cross did not benefit Lucifer, as Jesus did not die for evil.

Agate was another stone on the breastplate of the high priest. This gem with its multifaceted edges and colors represents the diversity of God's grace and the many stripes Christ bore on the way to Calvary. By these stripes we are healed (1 Peter 2:24). It also pointed to the cloud of incense, which represented the presence of God. Jesus Christ, our High Priest, always walked in the presence of God except for those three hours on the Cross when He became sin for us. With our sins upon the Son, God the Father in all of His holiness could not look upon His Son.

The last stone on the priest's breastplate was an *amethyst*. The color of this stone is clear purple—a combination of red and blue. This color speaks of Jesus Christ's hypostatic union as the perfect God-Man on the earth. He never surren-

dered His royalty as the King of kings, although He did empty Himself of the power of Deity. Jesus walked upon the earth under the leading of the Holy Spirit. He was never overwhelmed with the cares of this world. Jesus was never intoxicated with worry. In His perfect humanity, He never employed His deity, but He always trusted in God the Father.

The Worms that Never Leave

Isaiah 14:11 says of Lucifer, “the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.” One meaning of the word “worm” is conscience of memory, and the plural “worms” speaks of many memories through the conscience.

Satan has his place in hell because of his terrible conscience. God found iniquity within Lucifer, the star of the morning who was brought to the ground because of his volitional decisions. For now, he is the god of this world’s system (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The obedience of Jesus Christ’s humanity never profited Satan as a covering. The many beautiful facets of God’s grace were not available to Lucifer. The stripes of suffering would never profit the devil. The blue of Christ’s heavenly origin and the red of the blood He shed re-

vealed the purple of His hypostatic union, which never profited Satan.

Satan never wore these particular stones.

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded” (1 Peter 2:5-6).

This is God’s declaration concerning every born-again believer. When we are built up as “lively stones,” our lives are filled with love, joy, and peace—sardius, topaz, and diamonds. All of these stones speak of the fruit of the Spirit as they are active in us. God takes us as lively stones and fits us together in His family on earth.

Satan was cast out of the heavenly family. Through the obedience, the grace, the holiness and the manhood of Jesus Christ, now we are fitly framed into God’s family.

Chapter Two

ADDED INTO THE
ROYAL FAMILY FOR ETERNITY

The family is such a beautiful institution. It was the second institution established by God. He instituted marriage, in which husbands and wives nourish each other. The husband cherishes his wife as Christ cherishes His Church (Ephesians 5:25). Together, they develop an inner life with God. Confidence and a good self-image take root as they follow the wonderful plan of God and establish a family.

Children learn most about life by what they are exposed to in the home. Their training, their development, their spiritual lives, their practical lives, and their responsibility come from what they learn in the family.

Personally, I was one of seven children. My father died when I was three years old. We had a huge long table and we all sat around it for dinner. I can still see my mom making pork and

beans, homemade rolls and pies. You name it, she made it. It was precious and wonderful for me. Still, I always wondered what it would have been like to have a father. Then, I got saved. I found Christ, and I found God the Father.

Power that Breaks Bondage

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

We are made children of God by His Spirit, never to go back into bondage again. The spirit of fear no longer reigns in us because we can say to God, “My Father, my dear Father.” The Holy Spirit witnesses to our spirit that we are the children of God. When we receive Christ, He gives us power to become the sons of God, members of heaven’s precious family.

Every Christian can say he is a child of the Father of all mercies. He can also say that His Father is the God of all comfort and the God of all patience (see Romans 15:5). The God of all grace is our Father.

It is personal—He is our Father.

Deep Realities

Another beautiful truth is that Jesus Christ is not ashamed to call us “brethren” (see Hebrews 2:11). He said, “I will declare thy name to My brethren, and a new song I will sing in the midst of the congregation.” At that point, Jesus was just being a brother to the disciples and to all of us.

In Song of Solomon 4, the bridegroom said to the bride, “My love, my sister, my undefiled.” The Groom, who is Jesus Christ, was saying, “You are everything to me. You are my family. We are all members of one precious family.”

“Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me” (Psalm 42:7).

What does it mean when God says, “the deep calleth unto deep”? This is a very important passage, because eye has not seen nor has ear heard what the Father has prepared for them that love Him (I Corinthians 2:9).

We are not of the spirit of the world. We are of the Spirit of God that we might know those things that are freely given to us. For God has not given us the Spirit of this world’s wisdom, but the Spirit that is of Him.

The Holy Spirit searches all things and reveals them to us (1 Corinthians 2:10). We have the mind of Christ. The mind of eternity past is reaching into the human spirit of man. It brings with it His eternal revelation of love, joy, peace (the inward qualities of God) longsuffering, gentleness, goodness (the outward fruit of God) faithfulness, meekness, and temperance (the maximum glorification of God while we are on earth).

These all categorize the deep things of God.

Chapter Three

THE BRIDE: THE DARLING OF HEAVEN

“And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

“And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

“And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:43-48).

Remember that according to Ezekiel 28:11-19, Satan was cut off from the heavenly family, to be put in a place where the worm dies not and the fire is not quenched. The memory and conscience never die. When we receive Christ, we receive a new mind, and the Holy Spirit is constantly cleansing our conscience as we bring every thought into captivity (2 Corinthians 10:5). But those who end up in hell because they rejected the Savior must live with their memories and their consciences forever.

We, on the other hand, will enter into the New Jerusalem as Christ's Bride forever. Consider this: Eve came out of Adam; God took one of his ribs to make her for him. Therefore, she was bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh. In the same way, we are Jesus Christ's. We are bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh in this world. God brought Eve to Adam as his wife, just as the Father will present all born-again believers to Jesus Christ as His Bride.

When judgment is over, Christ will, for an instant, pull back the veil of hell (Isaiah 66:22-24). We will see what separation from the family of God will mean. We will see how the worms die not. We will see the fire that will never be quenched. We will see a place where

there is no gravity—the place of the bottomless pit (Revelation 9:2).

But that will not be our place.

Set in our Heavenly Position

“And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee.

“And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it” (Luke 8:20-21).

All over the world, there are precious Christians. Yes, all of us still have an old sin nature. Still, He has called us members of the family of heaven because of the truth of our position in Christ (Ephesians 2). We are complete in Him. We have been made perfect in Him, Jesus our Savior, Jesus our elder Brother. Because I never really knew my own father, it was so important to get to know my heavenly Father. And because of Calvary, I can say to God, “My Father.”

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

“And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

We are the darlings of heaven. We are His. We are the object of God's affections and attention. He made us complete in His family, and He has committed all of His promises to us.

CONCLUSION

It is a great thing to understand that we can shine instead of whine. This week do not whine. Purpose on it! Just remember that you are a member of His family, complete and entire—a member in particular of Him who is the Head of all principalities and powers. According to Colossians 3:3, we are hid with Christ; therefore, our record will always be perfect.

We can shine and not whine all week. We can bloom and not live in gloom. We can be better and not be bitter. Our minds can focus upward and not downward. We will not have to focus on what might have been or wonder why something happened.

Let's talk about the Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, who can make things happen in our lives. We can grow in joy and not in sorrow; we can grow in health and not wallow in sickness. We can live in meekness and not self-consciousness. We can grow in humility and not promote

ourselves in pride.

Our memories can be cleansed. There is no need for us to think any negative thing when we are filled with the Word of God. It will dwell richly in our souls and teach us to speak to ourselves in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Our hearts can be filled with melodies to our Father through Christ. Therefore, whatsoever we do in word and in deed, we will do to the glory of God.