



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** Church is Family (Romans 12:9-21)

**SPEAKER** Ps Edric Sng

**THEME** Kingdom Quest

**DATE** 1 & 2 Feb 2020

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This sermon reminds all BBTCians that we are one family in Christ. Our perception of our spiritual family and God, our heavenly Father, may sometimes be influenced by our earthly experience of our biological family. Relational friction which arises in our biological families might also arise in the church, our spiritual family. Drawing from Romans 12, this sermon seeks to remind Christians of God's purpose for placing us in our spiritual family.

## CHURCH IS FAMILY

### 1) EVERY FAMILY HAS ITS PRESCRIPTIONS

The church mentioned in Romans was made up predominantly by Gentiles. They were part of the family of God but unfamiliar with the ways of the church family (Jewish culture). Paul therefore begins Chapter Twelve with the expectations of Christian living in the light of God's mercies. He writes on how the spiritual family operates to exhort believers to not conform to their old ways of living but to embrace the values of their new spiritual family, the church.

In a similar manner, BBTCians are reminded to put behind their former ways of living and to embrace the values of the church. Instead of focusing on relational, personality and doctrinal differences, we should be focusing on Jesus who unites us as one body. We are part of God's family because God is our heavenly Father and Jesus is our brother (Hebrews 2:11; Romans 8:29). We are also family when we do the will of God (Mark 3: 35).

#### **What does it mean to be a BBTCian?**

1. BBTCians are convicted by the Gospel of the Good News.
2. BBTCians choose to love and live by the Word of God.
3. BBTCians crave continuous encounters with and empowerment by the Holy Spirit.
4. BBTCians are conscious to live out the Great Commission to save souls. We share Christ!
5. BBTCians are committed to discipleship in the body-life (Hebrews 10:24-25).

We are to abide in partnership with Jesus. These are the ways of the family of God.

## 2) EVERY FAMILY HAS ITS FRICTION

Paul wrote to the church in Rome to address the friction which they faced amongst believers. Similarly, friction exists in the church and family today due to personality, organizational and doctrinal differences. When tensions occur, we need to reflect and seek God's perspective in the situation. In response to friction (disagreements), God is asking us to bless instead of persecute, to include rather than to exclude, to love as opposed to seeking revenge and to make peace and not fight for our rights. We are to be peacemakers like Jesus whose response to his enemies was to forgive. He provided them with a chance for reconciliation and died to save them from their sins. By responding in love, we show the warmth of the family of God. We are to be like Jesus to forgive and to seek peace in the body of Christ.

## 3) EVERY FAMILY HAS ITS MISSION/COMMISSION

The increase of sickness, disease and pestilence is a sign of the end times. Panic and fear may prevail but we, as Christians, need not go along with the negative sentiment of society. We should not allow such fears to cause us to discriminate against others by being xenophobic. Our biblical response in the face of evil is to overcome it with good (Romans 12:20-21). By doing so, we will exemplify our Christian faith and love which can win over pre-believers.

The word "gospel" means good news. The good news is that God our Father loves us even though we deserve condemnation due to our sins. In His mercy and grace, He sent Jesus to die for us so that we may have eternal life. Following from the gospel of salvation is the gospel of the kingdom of God. This refers to what we are doing on earth to establish the reign of God (Luke 17). It is providing hope for the hopeless, love for the unlovable and provision for those in need. We are to be a missional community to establish the kingdom of God here on this earth and to carry out the Great Commission. We are reminded to share Christ as we mature in Him.

The church is not an exclusive social club for members only. Our doors are open to all who need healing, friendship and community. We are to be ushers who will warmly welcome and direct people into our family. We are put together in this church by a sovereign God for a purpose. When we know our mission and commission as a family, we will be purpose driven like Jesus. This becomes our witness of the goodness of God as a family of God.

## CONCLUSION

The church is a family. As a family, the church has its prescriptions. We are to abide in partnership with Christ, our co-heir, with God as our Father. In family, we need to put aside our differences and focus on our similarities. It is normal for family to have friction. However, we are to respond as peacemakers like Jesus so as to show the warmth of God's family to others. A family also has a mission/commission. For us as co-heirs with Christ, it is to share the gospel of salvation as well as the kingdom of God with others. We must be purpose-driven like Jesus so as to be the witness of the family of God to others.

# QUESTIONS

**1. Read Romans 12:9-13. What is God's prescription for living life in His family? Share and elaborate examples of living life within the spiritual family.**

**2. Reflect on the possible friction within God's family. Think about one past friction you experienced. How was it resolved? What is one thing which you learnt from the situation on being a peacemaker like Jesus?**

**3. We are a missional church establishing the Kingdom of God on earth providing hope for the hopeless, love for the unlovable and provision for those in need. As a cell group, brainstorm and discuss possible ways by which we can be a witness to the community/ our friends.**