

Text. Eph. 3:15 **THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD** ^{introduction: wordsworth}
I. The church as the Household of God, means the Family feature of the church. Eph. 2:19, "The household of God." ^{poem, we are seven}
A. Acts. 10:2, Cornelius, "house" used to mean family.
B. The church is referred to as the House of God.
1. I. Tim. 3:15, "the house of God, which is the church of the living God."

II. Features of God's Family -- the church.

A. God is the Father. Eph. 3:14, 15, "the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." ^{wordsworth: we are seven in the}
B. Christ, a Son over the House of God. Heb. 3:6, "Christ as a Son over his house, whose house we are."
C. Christians are His Brethren. Heb. 2:12, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren in the midst of the church." ^{Rom. 8:14-17}
D. Christians are Sons and Heirs. Rom. 8:14-17.

Features

III. The Blessedness of this Family Relationship.

A. Approach to God as Father. Mt. 6:6-9
B. God's Fatherly Provision. Rom. 8:32, James 1:17
C. God's Fatherly Correction. Heb. 12:4-11
D. God's Fatherly Protection. Phil. 4:5-7; I Cor. 10:13
E. The Father's constant love. I Jno. 3:1; Rom. 8:38-39
F. The Father's eternal inheritance. I Peter 1:4 ^{for his home} ^{if he's your son}

IV. How We Become Children of God

A. By being born again. Jno. 3:3-5
B. Not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man; it is supernatural.
C. "Born of God" - "from above", How?
D. By receiving Christ as your personal savior. ^{Jno. 1:11}

V. What This Relationship Demands

A. Separation from the world. ^{unbelievers} II Cor. 6:17-18
^{I John 2:15-16}
B. Obedience. I Jno. 3:10; I Peter 1:14 "as obedient children"
C. Wear family name. ^(name of Alexander) Acts. 11:26, "the disciples were called christians first in Antioch." Col. 3:17, "whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."
D. Love our Brethren. I John 3:13-19; 4:7, 20-21.

Conclusion.

