

Family Affair

1 John 3:1-3

Introduction

Do you remember the show from the late 60s and early 70s, **Family Affair**, with Uncle Bill, Cissy, Buffy, Jody and Mr. French? Brian Keith plays Bill Davis, the owner of a successful construction company who becomes a single dad when his dead brother's three children show up and move in with him. In some ways, it makes a good analogy of the family of God, because, while the kids aren't his offspring, there is a blood connection through his brother, and he takes them in. We are adopted by God into His family, but we are also connected through the blood of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate **All Saints' Day**, we remember that it's more than just a celebration of Christians who have gone to be with the Lord. It's a celebration of **All Saints**. We are celebrating the family of God. We want to look today at how that all plays out.

In and Out

The *High Priestly Prayer* of Jesus in **John 17** gives us an insight as to why God created us. (Read **John 17:20-21**). Jesus is talking here about a relationship between Himself and the Father, a very close one. He asks the Father to bring us into this same relationship. From this, we can see that God created us to have fellowship with the Trinity. That doesn't mean we're part of the Godhead, but we were created to join in the dance, so to speak, with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That's why He made us in His image. But when Adam and Eve sinned, it destroyed that image. Our close relationship with God was broken, for He is holy and cannot tolerate sin. Our relationship with one another was broken as well. God gave us the **Ten Commandments** to show us how we were created to live.

Adopted

God promised in **Genesis 3** that He would send a redeemer to buy us back from Satan, One who would *crush the devil's head*. (Read **Galatians 4:3-7**). In the fullness of time, when everything was just right, Jesus was born of a virgin, grew up, died on Calvary and rose from the dead. He paid the price for our sins. He bought us back, adopted us, making us God's children. That's why we pray, "*Our Father, who art in heaven ...*" Imagine for a minute just how great the love of God is. He created us. We sinned and turned our backs on Him. He gave up His only Son to the awful death on the cross to buy us back. He looks for us and comes after us to make us His children. This is where our analogy of **Family Affair** breaks down. Uncle Bill didn't reach out to his nieces and nephew; they just showed up. We didn't show up on God's doorstep; He chased us down until He caught us.

Family Squabbles

Now, family's never easy. Sometimes all that holds a family together is the blood bond. Sometimes even that's not enough. Personalities clash, tempers flare, feelings get hurt and there's trouble in River City. Life in God's family isn't always easy, either. After all, we may be children of God, but we're still sinners. That fallen nature, along with the world and Satan, loves to stir the pot. Just like in biological families, personalities clash, tempers flare and feelings get hurt.

Holding the Family Together

God is the true Patriarch, giving us His love to draw from. The blood of the Son holds the family together. The Spirit gives gifts and plants fruit in the garden. He steps in and smooths out personalities, cools tempers and soothes hurt feelings. He also reminds us that this is not the end. (Read **Revelation 7:15-17**). We're heading to a better home, where all the sorrow will be taken away and Jesus will be our Shepherd, wiping away every tear. That will be the homecoming to beat all homecomings.

Means of Grace

Until then, God cares for His family through the means of grace. In His Word, He shows us how the family is to operate. As we partake of the body and blood of Christ, He forgives our sins, strengthens our faith and builds the family of God. This life is a **Family Affair**.

*May the peace of God,
Which passes all understanding,
Keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
