

Our name doesn't tell a great deal about us here upon earth. The real family to which we belong is to know the Lord Jesus Christ is the family of God. There is one family.

Well, some people say yes, we're all sons of God. All children of God. There we must raise a question. The Bible teaches us the truth. Does the Bible teach we are all children of God? You turn to John 8 which I will read from the NIV. I'll read the first half of v. 42 and v.44 because what's in between isn't particularly important to this particular point. "Jesus said to them, If God were your Father you would love me.....You belong to your father the devil and you want to carry out your father's desires. He explicitly says here there are two families. There is the family of God; there is the family of the devil.

You find that in the books of Mat. and Lk. Before Jesus ever said this John the Baptist spoke. Mat. and Lk. both tell us about it. Lk. 3:7-8--John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance and do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham for our father for I tell you that out of these stones, God can raise up children." There is the family of God and there is the family of Satan.

We are created by God. He controls everything. But man has sinned. Man has fallen into the power of the devil. Man has become a member of the family of the devil, not of the family of God. There are the two families. We have a very good law in this country that if a woman gives up her child for adoption careful records are made of it in the courts, and I believe 6 months later after she has given up the child she has a right to change her mind. But after that she has permanently given up all rights to that child and the child is not supposed to be told who the parent is. Because the real parents of the child are the ones who adopted it. The ones who brought them up.

They may not have derived their particular strength of arm, or perhaps their brilliance in some certain way from their adopted parents. But these are the ones who have taken care of them. These are the ones from whom they have learned most of their habits, most of their attitudes. These are their real parents.

I had a friend who lived in Riverside, Illinois. He and his wife had lived there a number of years and had no children. They were very anxious to have a child. They tried to adopt and were unable for some reason to find a baby they could adopt. Then an agency asked them, Would you care to take a 12 yr. old boy? They hesitated about that. But they decided to do it and they adopted this 12 yrs. old boy. They brought him into their home. They cared for him. They taught him the things of the Lord. They did their best to bring him up in a fine way. I'm glad to tell you he has turned out into a very fine upright citizen.

But when he was about 18 yrs. of age, he decided he had to know his real parents. In the case of one adopted as old as that --he had been in orphanages off and on before-- it was not difficult to find out who his parents were. His adopted father and mother did