

they are brothers in Christ. He wants us to realize that Jesus Christ went through terribly agony and suffering in order that we might be saved. How petty sometimes are the things that we hold against other Christians when we think that Jesus died for them and died for us.

He wants us to love one another and to set an example to the world for people not merely to === that will lead people not merely to hear our witness--we should do that-- but that they will see our lives and see that the love of God is shown forth in our lives.

So the family of God is the great family. That is the family which every Christian belongs to and that is the family which sets the example as to what our human families should be. If we are truly servants of God we will want, if God in His mercy gives us families of our own, He will want us to follow the example and to raise our children in love, gentleness, and kindness and constantly looking out not simply for what they like, but for what is good for them and for what will develop in them the qualities we would like them to have.

How wonderful it is to be members of the family of God! The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ after whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.

Let us pray. Our God and Father we thank you for the wonderful teaching of your Word that those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, those who sincerely have looked to Him for salvation, and been born again through His precious blood, that we are members of one family. We can know that our Father does not have the weaknesses, mistakes and errors that all human fathers inevitably have, but that He is perfect and that He has a power ~~xxx~~ that no human ~~fatherxxxx~~ father has, a power to direct ~~xxxxxx~~ circumstances and that everything in our lives and that everything in our lives is part of His purpose for our ~~xxx~~ good and His purpose for our accomplishment of the purposes He desires us to fulfill in the world. We pray, our Father, that you will help us to realize our place as members of the family of God. In our Saviour's Name. Amen.