



**October 11, 2026**

**"The Church as a Family"**

**Luke 8:19–21**

Church-bashing is popular today:

"I love Jesus, but I don't like his church."

There is genuine church hurt, but ...

The church of Jesus Christ does a lot of good!

If you don't like the church, here's your problem:

- Jesus loves his Bride
- He died for his Bride to have life
- Husbands are called to love their wives with the same kind of love of Jesus for his Bride

**Biblical images of the church:**

1. Bride
2. Body
3. Flock
4. Army
5. Family

### **Luke 8:19–21**

*19 Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. 20 And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." 21 But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."*

### **Luke 8:19**

*"Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd."*

- Big crowds continue to follow Jesus
- He is in a house, resting or teaching
- Then Jesus's mother and brothers come to him
- Joseph was apparently deceased
- The last time Joseph was mentioned in Jesus's life in the New Testament was when Jesus was 12 in Jerusalem
- The average life span in that day was 45 years of age
- Jesus had brothers (half-brothers)? Apparently, yes, and two half-sisters
  - **John 7:5**  
*"For not even his brothers believed in him."*
  - **Mark 6:3**  
*"Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?"*
- What about the Catholic dogma of the perpetual virginity of Mary?
- It's a second century construct: Mary can't be a virgin and then have children
- The view of intimacy among some early church fathers as sin
- The likely standard view is that Mary and Joseph had children together
- After her virgin conception with Jesus (it is a very important doctrine in which to believe)
- There were two brothers we know about, one named James who:
  - Witnessed the resurrection — **1 Corinthians 15:7**
  - Went from critic to head of the Jerusalem church — **Acts 15**
  - Wrote the book of James in the New Testament
- Another brother was named Jude who:
  - Was most likely a critic as well

- Witnessed the resurrection too? (500+ did in **1 Corinthians 15**)
- Wrote the New Testament book named Jude
- Two other brothers were named Joseph (after Dad?) and Simon
- And two unnamed sisters
- The four brothers, with Mary, wanted a heart-to-heart with the oldest, Jesus
- At the age of 30, Jesus handed over the carpenter's business to James?
- They all saw and knew he was stirring up dissent
- From the Jewish leaders (threatened) and Romans (no rebellion!)
- Undoubtedly, they wanted Jesus to stop stirring up trouble and come home
- But they couldn't reach him because of the crowd
- They're outside a building and Jesus is inside

### **Luke 8:20**

*"And he was told, 'Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.'"*

- Someone told Jesus that his mother and brothers were outside
- They requested an audience with him
- Imagine what Jesus's family must have been thinking as they waited
- Me and interruptions from my family

### **Luke 8:21**

*"But he answered them, 'My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.'"*

- Jesus answers their request to see him
- He doesn't immediately see them, but responds to the crowd:
- "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and obey it"

Remember the context of these verses:

1. The parable of the Sower and the soils: God's desire for our hearts/soil to hear the Word of God, go deep, and bear 100-fold fruitfulness
2. Then the Word is a lamp to our lives and the more we understand it, the more that will be given to us (for example, end times: last week)
3. Now: Jesus's family are those who hear and obey the Word of God

4. The centrality of God's Word in following Jesus

### **The church (ekklesia) in the New Testament:**

1. The church should be on the offensive — **Matthew 16:18**  
*"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*
2. The church should live in this power before the demonic world — **Ephesians 3:10**  
*"so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."*
3. It seems to be the Church of Jesus is living beneath its privilege!

### **See also the Trinity (an essential doctrine) in the church as God's family:**

1. God as Father/ called "Abba" by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
2. Jesus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Godhead, is the firstborn
3. We are born again in the power of the Holy Spirit, the next ones born in the Father's family
4. The Holy Spirit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Godhead, gives the Father's life in us who believe
5. We are adopted into the Father's family; heirs of all he owns — **Galatians 4:4-5**  
*"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."*
6. Jesus is our big brother (our defender, protector, FOR us) — **Romans 8:31** *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"*
7. The Holy Spirit in those of us who believe makes us all brothers and sisters in Christ
8. The church as God's family

### **The proof we are in God's family:**

1. We HEAR God's Word (daily bread)
2. We OBEY God's Word

A recent conversation with a very good leader

"After all is said and done, a whole lot more is said than done."

## **Living on mission, obedience to God's Word (the power of the Holy Spirit IN you):**

1. When you pray (168 hours) — miracles should happen
2. When you give — the tithe — practice financial generosity
3. Radical forgiveness (Christianity 401)
4. Love to worship — **Hebrews 10:25**
5. Love other family members — even/especially when we are weird and quirky
6. Don't forget the poor — **Galatians 2:10**
7. Share the gospel of grace (invite to church) — new life brings excitement
8. Sexual purity — **1 Thessalonians 4:3**  
*"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;"*
9. Strong families — **Genesis 2:24**  
*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*
10. Politics? — an illustration:
  - John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg in Woodstock, Virginia
  - The Black Robe Regiment
  - January 21, 1776
  - Preaching from **Ecclesiastes 3**: "a time of war and a time of peace"
  - He preached: "In the language of holy Writ, there was a time for all things — a time to preach and a time to pray, but those times had passed away. There was a time to fight and that time has come"
  - Under his robe, a full-dress military uniform as a colonel in the Continental Army
  - He marched down the aisle and 160 men in his congregation joined him
  - He became a Major General
  - And a U.S. Congressman and U.S. Senator
  - If we don't, who will? Do you appreciate our First Amendment? Our freedoms?

The Apostle's Creed: One, holy, catholic, apostolic church

When I was ordained: The Church's One Foundation

I love the local church

I have one more major assignment from our Lord:

### **God's Call to MOHC to Ballantyne**

1. A call from God to his people to go to the Ballantyne area
2. To be a mega-church?
3. The next six months: two sets of meals (one/two per week); smaller groups/questions and answers.
4. Please come! More intimate. Questions and answers. Renderings.
5. First group from now through November; second group January–early March
6. Reminder: over 5 years. Upfront gifts determine borrowing from bank
7. Go to Hope Central to register for meals
8. Please ALL participate; but the amount is between you and Jesus
9. Pledge cards turned in when you know the amount (December and March after the meals)
10. This family's mission is primarily SOULS: the most valuable possession on earth
11. To make disciples of ALL the nations
11. Giving as an act of worship

### **1 Corinthians 16:2**

*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.*

### **Application:**

1. Hear God's Word
2. Obey God's Word

You'll have a lifetime's worth of work to do

Now to one of the great hymns of the faith