

# CHURCH FAMILY WEEKEND

Houses of Light Church • June 4-5, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Rom. 12:5

**“so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”**

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This weekend we had the privilege of dedicating 18 babies to the Lord, we are also baptizing over 20 new members during our services; In addition, since this is the first weekend of the month, we are commemorating Holy Communion together. According to the Scriptures all these activities point to what we are as a community: The Family of Faith.
- B. **In biblical terms, the people in the chairs around us are our family.** Like the members of our biological family, they have not been chosen by us, but have been chosen for us and, therefore, we are united with them. Precisely because we belong to Christ, we belong to His family.

**Rom. 8:29 “For those whom he foreknew *he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*”**

- C. When Paul wanted the Roman church to welcome and help Phoebe, he called her **“our sister” (Rom 16:1)**; when Peter wanted to praise Silvanus, he called him **“faithful brother” (1 Pet 5:12)**. When apostolic writers wanted to address an entire congregation, they often called them **“brethren”**.

## II. CHURCH LIFE AS A FAMILY

**Rom. 12:10 “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”**

- A. Acknowledging the fact of our sibling relationship is not an intellectual exercise; it is a profound truth that must arouse real emotions and overflow into tangible expression. **Because these people are family, we learn their names (3 Jn 15) and find out their interests. We show brotherly love for all by renouncing any hint of favoritism (Jas 2:1). In hundreds of ways, we seek to say: Those around me in church are my brothers and sisters, and I love them.**

**Gal. 6:10 “ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”**

- B. **Throughout the New Testament, God calls us to care for one another in the local church.** The epistles, in particular, tell us what it means to be brothers and sisters and teach us **“how one should conduct oneself in the house of God” (1 Tim 3:15)**. With their various commands to “one another” (pray, bear burdens, forgive us, serve us, etc.) **these exhortations remind us that life in the family of God will reorient our allegiance, not just on Sundays, but beyond meeting days.**

- C. The church is not a man-made society that we can participate in, or choose not to participate in, according to our own comfort level. The PTA, the neighborhood association, or the library booster club don't force us to make personal sacrifices when the going gets tough. **The family of faith does.**
- D. **When presenting our children before the Lord**, the focus is on the parents' commitment to God, but also on the commitment as the body of Christ to support parents in their call to model and teach our children about God. **Those who are baptized do not simply carry out an isolated event but are baptized into the body of Christ and become part of our family of faith.**  
**1 Cor. 12:13 "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves[d] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."**
- E. An essential part of celebrating Holy Communion is acknowledging the Body of Christ around us.  
**1 Cor. 10:17 "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."**
- F. Because God's people are our family, we will not cling to our own preferences and priorities. (Acts 4:32)  
**Phil 2:4 "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."**
- G. We will open our hearts and our doors; we'll pull another chair up to the dinner table and add another name to our prayer list. We will give them our meals, furniture, and smiles. We will share your pain, trials, and disappointments. As a result, we anticipate having less money and less free time than we would on our own. **We anticipate having more pain but we also anticipate having greater joy than we would in isolation.**

### III. JESUS OUR OLDER BROTHER

- A. Ultimately, our joy in our spiritual family comes from something larger than our daily experience with ordinary people who belong to the local church. **Our joy comes from Christ, our brother, who is making all the members of the family like him.**
- B. **The whole work of redemption has this approach: a great family where all the members look more and more like their older brother.** Knowing this, we can delight in the specific people God has given us as brothers and sisters, no matter how unexceptional they may seem, because in them we understand something of Christ.
- C. As they grow and mature in the family circle, their character and conduct become more and more like the One whom our souls love most. Because of the work of his Spirit, they speak His words, love His ways, reflect His holiness, and serve His purposes. The more they, and we, become like Christ, the more we will love our brothers.
- D. In one of the most amazing statements in the Scriptures, we read that Christ looks at the people of his church and **"is not ashamed to call them brothers"** (Heb 2:11). How can Christ look at the common people, weak and, times,

difficult for your family and not be ashamed? **He is not ashamed because He is being formed more and more in them, because of his work on their behalf, his transformation will be completed (Gal 4:19).** He willingly identifies with us because **our identity is found in Him.**

**Heb. 2:10 "or it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering."**

- E. **By affirming our relationship with the people of our local church and overflowing with affection for them, we loudly testify to the world that we are also not ashamed to call them brothers, not because they are perfect, but because they are being made like our older brother.** In our Christian brothers and sisters, we can see something that the world cannot see. We can see Christ himself.
- F. **God created us as social beings** in **Gen. 2:1** we read: **"It is not good for the man to be alone"**, without a doubt, in its context, this verse indicates that the husband needed a wife, but it also presents the principle that being part of a community applies to all human beings. We need to share real relationships with other people and, above all, with our brothers and sisters in faith. **We live in difficult and strange times. In the world, individualism prevails and we must not allow this to contaminate our churches.** We can be alone because of our attitude because we ourselves do not approach and expect others to do for us what we would not do for them (**Matt. 7:12**).
- G. **The church is supposed to be a little piece of heaven.** The Bible itself, in **Psalm 133**, invites us to look at the beauty of living together in harmony. It is so beautiful how our way of seeing brothers and sisters changes once we talk and learn a little about their history. **Sometimes, we are together but feeling lonely because we don't cross the barrier and get close to others.**

#### IV. SOME ADVICE ABOUT FRIENDSHIP:

**Pr. 18:24 "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."**

- A. **Friendship requires investment.** Definitely, it is not always easy to cultivate a friendship; it requires a willingness to invest effort, time, and sometimes money.
- B. **Friendship sometimes hurts.** Sometimes we may be disappointed. Let us remember that we are all sinners struggling in a fallen world, but Jesus was not a lone ranger even when he knew he was going to be betrayed.
- C. **Friendships are part of God's provision.** Having friends present in the most difficult moments of my life has been like a balm. Ask God to give you friends and show yourself a friend.
- D. **Friendship brings reward.** Be sincere and hospitable. Remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive (**Acts 20:35**), and whenever you give, you receive.

- E. Sometimes it is difficult to understand why we are so lonely, why we lose friends but if we analyze it we never had time to get together, we forget to answer a message or because of a misunderstanding that we do not work to resolve. The good news is that you can develop friendships in the church family. If you are going through a season of sadness or loneliness pray and take refuge in Jesus, your friend par excellence and also approach the broken body of Christ, that is, the church because He uses it to restore us no matter how far we have fallen.

## V. CONCLUSION

- A. As the Body of Christ that we are and as the leadership of Houses of Light, we hope that all members grow as a family of faith so that all the purposes that God has for each family on an individual level but also as a community are fulfilled. It is the task of each one of us to make this happen.

## VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you feel part of the church family? Explain
2. How can you help us grow more as a family of faith?
3. What hindrance or suggestion do you have to improve our closeness as a family of faith?

### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The introductory course to the House of Prayer has already started but you can still register at [www.nhop.la](http://www.nhop.la)
- Holy58 Youth Service Wednesday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Next Women's Retreat July 8 and 9. You can register at the bookstore or on the website [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)
- OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: We invite you to support our children's ministry. You can sign up for the reporting center today.
- Remember to register and participate in the elections, we recommend the voting guide: [www.biblicalvoter.com](http://www.biblicalvoter.com)