

YOU WERE MADE FOR GOD'S FAMILY

*"Look! I have been standing at the door, and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me."*

Revelation 3:20 (LB)

*Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. <sup>5</sup>His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.*

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

*God is the one who made all things, and all things for His glory. He wanted to have many children share in His glory.*

Hebrews 2:10 (NCV)

*For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Romans 10:13 (NIV)

❖ Taking the First Step – SALVATION:

*"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on the name of the Lord."*

Acts 22:16 (NIV)

1. God created you to have a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with Him.

*"Dear friends in Rome. God loves you dearly, and he has called you to be his very own people."*

Romans 1:7 (NLT)

2. Our relationship with God is BROKEN due to our SIN.

*"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God."*

Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

3. The Good News... Jesus Christ has personally taken care of our SIN PROBLEM.

*God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:16 (NIV)

❖ Taking the Next Step – BAPTISM:

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”*

Matthew 28:19 (NLT)

1. Our baptism demonstrates to others that we are a BELIEVER in Christ.

*Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized...*

Acts 2:41 (NIV)

2. Our baptism illustrates we were DEAD in our sin, but now ALIVE in Christ.

*For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.*

Colossians 2:12 (NIV)

❖ Taking the Final Step – MEMBERSHIP:

*You are a member of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.*

Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

1. The Church is a FAMILY; a Christian without a church family is an ORPHAN.

*But God has combined the members of the body...<sup>25</sup>that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

1 Corinthians 12:24-27 (NIV)

2. When we accept the MESSAGE of Christ, we accept the MISSION of Christ.

*Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup>so it is with Christ’s body. We are all a part of His body, and each of us has a different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others. <sup>6</sup>God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.*

Romans 12:4-6 (NLT)

❖ There is one main difference between a member and an attender... COMMITMENT.