

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part X

Colossians 1:12-19

Introduction: The more I preach about the auspicious family of God, the more judicious I feel about being a part of it. Not only do we have an unequivocal advantage on earth because we are secure in Him, but we also have a placidity and veritable assurance that we are going to live forever with Him in glory. Jesus assured Peter that He was building His church and that not even the gates of hell could prevail against it. *Matthew 16:18*. The church is not here on earth only to be a showcase, but rather to have a paradigm shift from the mundane and becoming a salubrious beaming light bringing hope to the nations. The family of God is the vortex that God is using to draw people to Himself. *Ephesians 1:22-23*. Gabriel is probably practicing on God's trumpet now, getting ready for the rapture of the church.

I. God's magnificent idea

A. The following things will enhance the family of God into fruitful living.

1. The word of God. *Acts 20:32*.
2. The body ministry. *1st Corinthians 14:26*.
3. Spiritual sacrifices. *1st Peter 2:5*.
4. Praying in the Spirit. *Jude 20*.
5. Right communication. *Ephesians 4:29*.
6. Harmony and peace. *Romans 14:19*.
7. Please our neighbor. *Romans 15:2*.
8. Giving of ourselves to Him. *Romans 6:13, 12:1*.
9. Our time. *Ephesians 5:16*.
10. Our substance (to God). *Malachi 3:10*.
11. Sharing with others. *Hebrews 13:16*.
12. Our fruit. *John 15:8, 16*.
13. Sacrifice of thanksgiving. *Psalms 107:22, 116:17*.

II. The relationship of the family.

A. The protocol of the relationship.

1. We have but one Father. *Isaiah 64:8; Matthew 5:16*.
2. We have an elder Brother. *Hebrews 2:14-17*.
3. We are children of the family. *John 1:12-13*. Each of us is part of the whole. *Ephesians 3:14-15*.
4. The local church is self-supporting. The people God sends into a local fellowship are responsible to support the work. *Malachi 3:9-10* (Amplified): "*You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*"
5. The local church is self-propagating. Reproduction is part of the normal family process (i.e. multiplication). The church is responsible to instruct the family on how to raise their children in the faith. The family is then responsible to raise their children in the admonition of the Lord. *Proverbs 22:6*. One of the responsibilities of the five-fold ministry is "...for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." *Ephesians 4:12*.
6. The covering and protection of the family. We are living in the last days, and great pressure is coming upon the earth. The Bible says that in the last days "*perilous days shall come*," and when the enemy comes in like a flood, we know the Lord will raise up a standard against him. The Bible promises us a refuge. *Isaiah 4:6*: "*and there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for shelter from storm and rain.*" *Isaiah 54:17* promises that "*no weapon formed against you shall prosper. And every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me, says the Lord.*"

Conclusion: The church is a very close knit fellowship of believers who are committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our mission is transparent, and our determination is impervious. Together we are called to make a difference in our society for the good. Moral values rate high with the family, and we are set on influencing our generation for Christ. The Great Commission of *Mark 16:15* burns in our hearts, and we are destined and determined to fulfill it.