

## LOVE YOUR FAMILY

### MATTHEW 19:3-6

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. The second part of the greatest command is to “*love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matt. 22.37,38).
2. Among those categorized as our neighbor are those who are part of our family. (Luke 6.27; Rom. 13.10; 1 Pet. 1.22; Eph. 5.25)
3. If we treat our family with love, then divorce will never become an issue. [Read Matthew 19.3-6]

#### I. READ YOUR BIBLE

- A. To create a loving atmosphere in the home, read your Bible.
  1. **MATTHEW 19.3:** “*The Pharisees came to Him*”
  2. **MATTHEW 19.3:** “*Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?*”
  3. Just like today, that question was asked in the days of Jesus as a test of doctrinal soundness. (Deut. 24.1-4)
  4. **MATTHEW 19.4:** “*Have you not read*”
- B. Reading your Bible at home is a great place to start.
  1. The Holy Spirit assumed we would read. (Eph. 3.3,4)
  2. When Timothy would come together with the church, he was to “*give attention to reading*” (1 Tim. 4.13)

#### II. UNDERSTAND YOUR DIFFERENCES

- A. To create a loving atmosphere in the home, understand that men and women are different.
  1. **MATTHEW 19.4:** “*Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’*”
  2. In the account of creation, three words are used to describe the process: “created,” “formed,” and “made.”
  3. **GENESIS 2.22:** “*Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman*” Lit. built.
- B. We need to recognize and appreciate our differences to bring harmony into the home.
  1. **ROMANS 1.24-28:** Same sex relationships are characterized as “*against nature.*”
  2. Why? Because God made man and woman to go together. (1 Pet. 3.7)

**CONCLUSION:** MATTHEW 19.5,6: A family is made by God. Are you part of the family that Jesus built?

## NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”  
-Mark 16.15

June 27, 2021

#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

#### WHY YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

Are there things in this life that you find difficult to understand? Do you find those of the opposite sex baffling? Is it hard to grasp how it is possible for a computer to hear, understand, and respond to your requests? This world is a mysterious place.

What about the Bible? Is it hard for you to understand? God tells us in Isaiah 55.8.9 that “*as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*” Essentially, God is telling us that it is impossible to understand on our own the will of God (cf. Rom. 11.34). But if you keep reading, this same passage tells us that God has communicated His will to man through His word (Isa. 55.11). The written word of God is the will of God revealed to man. Yet so many of us still find it difficult to understand the Bible. Consider four reasons why you may not understand the Bible.

You may not understand your Bible because you do not spend time reading your Bible. In Ephesians 3.3,4 Paul wrote, “*how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ).*” When the Holy Spirit revealed the mystery of the gospel in the written form, He expected us to actually read it.

[continued inside]

## THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT

### MARK 4:30

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. The church is a building constructed of each individual member as a building block. (1 Pet. 2.4,5)
2. The word translated as “church” means “called out.”
  - a) Out of what have we been called? (1 Pet. 2.9)
  - b) How were we called out? (2 Thess. 2.14; Acts 26.18)
3. Two parables teach us what Jesus had in mind for the church that He would build. [READ MARK 4.26-34]

#### I. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PARABLES

- A. The church is singular.
  1. **MARK 4.26,30:** “*The kingdom of God.*” One kingdom!
  2. Jesus only promised to build one church. (Matt. 16.18)
  3. Those who belong to His church are those who have yielded to His commands. (Matt. 28.19,20)
  4. The Lord’s church is not divided into denominations with different doctrines. (Matt. 15.9)
- B. The church is special.
  1. **MARK 4.26,30:** “*The kingdom of God.*” Royalty!
  2. We have been made kings. (Rev. 1.5,6)
  3. Other descriptions that imply the special nature of the people of God. (Acts 20.28; Eph. 1.22,23; 1 Tim. 3.15)
  4. How important is the kingdom to Jesus? (Matt. 4.17)

#### II. THE STORY OF THE PARABLES

- A. The parable of the growing seed.
  1. The seed is planted and grows, but “*he himself does not know how*” (Mark 4.27).
  2. Our responsibility is to plant the seed, but we are to leave the growth of the seed to God. (1 Cor. 3.6,7; Rom. 1.16)
  3. It takes time for the seed to grow. (Mark 4.28)
- B. The parable of the mustard seed.
  1. The seed starts out small, but then grows exponentially larger than how it started. (Mark 4.31,32; Acts 2.41,47)
  2. The church is a blessing to others providing physical, social, and emotional needs. (Mark 4.32; Acts 2.44-46)

**CONCLUSION:** If you are in the church, then you are among those who are saved.

## WHY YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

We can try to understand the Bible by listening to the teaching and preaching of others. But to really grasp what the Bible says, you have to read it. Reading involves more than just skimming the pages. We need to read it with a mind that looks forward to learning what it says, and then study it by examining the context, looking up word definitions, and noting verb tenses. (Acts 17.11).

You may not understand your Bible because you are not applying common sense. Consider what Paul wrote in Ephesians 5.17. There he said, “*Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*” The Bible concept of “unwise” does not refer to a lack of knowledge. It refers to someone who refuses to apply common sense. If I am interested in knowing the names of my favorite sports team more than applying myself to understand the will of God, I am not applying common sense. If I would rather spend more time playing games than reading my Bible, then I am not applying common sense. My lack of understanding comes when I act unwise by prioritizing other pursuits over the will of God.

You may not understand your Bible because you are unreceptive to its message. In Matthew 13, Jesus teaches the parable of the sower in a context of the scribes and Pharisees being unreceptive to the gospel. He describes them in Matthew 13.15 as having ears that are hard of hearing and eyes that they have closed. He then says this in verse 15: “*Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn.*” Sometimes we have a hard time understanding the Bible because we find teachings that are difficult to accept. Sometimes we have a hard time grasping the meaning of a passage because we are trying to understand it through the eyes of preconceived ideas. If we want to understand what the Bible actually says, we need to have an open mind and be receptive.

You may not understand your Bible because it is simply hard to understand. Peter wrote about the writings of Paul “*in which are some things hard to understand*” (2 Pet. 3.16). The unnamed writer of Hebrews likens the word of God to food. Those who are spiritually immature “*have come to need milk and not solid food*” (Heb. 5.12). He then goes on to say that “*solid food belongs to those who are of full age*” (Heb. 5.14). There are times when we do not understand a passage because we have not yet fully grasped the basics, and we need to slow down and give ourselves time to grow.

The Bible is understandable, and we are commanded to learn what the Bible says. But doing so takes time and effort. Perhaps we might take some direction from Jesus who tells the Pharisees, “*Go and learn what this mean*” (Matt. 9.13).