

Family and Friends – What Are They?

By Kevin Cauley

What is a family? In the beginning God defined for us what constitutes a family. We read in Genesis 2:21-24, "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." At the minimum, a family is a husband and a wife. Into such a union children may then be born or adopted and extend the family. Eventually, however, the children will grow up and move out creating their own families. This then becomes the extended family. However it all ought to begin with one man and one woman.

There is an ongoing effort in our world today to redefine what we know as the family. We are told that a family can be anyone or anything that one loves. There are efforts to have same sex families. There are efforts to have families composed of man and beast. There are efforts to have families composed of multiple wives or husbands, or both! All of these efforts to redefine what God has defined as a family fail to meet God's standard. God created the family to be composed of one man and one woman and that is God's ideal. We ought not then apologize to the many who do not meet this standard if we are to speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11). Instead, let us glorify God for His great wisdom that He has given regarding the family and live according to His will in that regard. God's way is always the best way.

What is a friend? Proverbs 17:17 declares, "A friend loves at all times...." A friend is someone who is there through thick and thin. He is someone who never gives up. He is someone upon whom you can always depend. A friend loves you whether you love him or not. There is not going to be a circumstance in which he will stop loving. That's a true friend. Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." This is the ultimate sacrifice that a friend will make for another friend to show the greatness of his love.

The world has also sought to redefine the term friend. Today, many define a friend as someone who always encourages me to do what I want regardless of the consequences. Many consider someone their friend only if he supports all of their choices and decisions whether right or wrong. The Bible, however, tells us a different story regarding friendship. Proverbs 27:6 says, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." Those who would encourage us regardless of our choices are no true friends.

Some may also define friendship in terms of what another can purchase. In other words, one will be another's friend so long as the gravy train doesn't run out. Such "friendship" isn't based upon loyalty or love, but upon selfishness and covetousness. The Bible says, "...every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts" (Proverbs 19:6). If every man is our friend, then we've really made no true friends at all. Our society today needs true friends, not the fickle favor of feckless frolickers. We need friends like are discussed in Proverbs 27:17 "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Friends ought to love us when we truly need to be loved, question us when we need to be questioned, and correct us when we need to be corrected whether we want them to or not.

Family or friend, God has given us instruction on what he expects out of these roles in our lives. Let us learn what God wants us to know and believe and make the appropriate application. Jesus said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14). May God bless you as you seek to know and do His will.

Things you should know about!

Thank you for joining us for our Family and Friends Day!
We will have our potluck and annual EGG HUNT after morning services. Plan to stay for this fun filled (and candy filled) afternoon!

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Seth Arrell 4/11                      Chelsea Wilson 4/14  
Jaxson Schaffer 4/19                Myla Neaves 4/23

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Men please make note of next quarter's Men's Meeting on April 16th.

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### Happy Anniversary

Greg and Michelle Buckingham 4/14  
Cole and Lena Durst 4/16

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In March we sent \$1,160.00 to the Disaster Relief Fund.
We would like to send donations to them quarterly, if you would like to contribute mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason.

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Please call John or email him at [jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com](mailto:jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you may have for the congregation.

### Serving today and next Sunday:

| Sunday AM Rotation     | April 10, 2022    | April 17, 2022     |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Announcements          | Tim Bang          | Tom Muter          |
| Song Leading           | John McGiffin     | Duane Kemp         |
| Opening Prayer         | Tom Muter (L)     | Tim Bang (L)       |
| Lord's Supper Comments | Jason Bang        | Jason Bang         |
| Scripture Reading      | Owen Whittington  | Chris McGiffin     |
| Sermon                 | JD Buckner        | John McGiffin      |
| Closing Prayer         | Curt Thompson (R) | Jerry Thompson (R) |

**Bible Verse of the Week**

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”  
Matthew 11:29-30

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**Lord’s Supper Reflection –Why Did Jesus Die?**

*Declared to be the Son of God by the Resurrection*

“... and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” Romans 1:4

**Offering Meditation**

*Give According to Your Means*

“For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they* were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency <sup>1</sup>that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.”

**2 Corinthians 8:3-5, 12**

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**Remember in Prayer:**

- \*Our Country & leaders, Ukraine crisis
- \*Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- \*Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- \*Laura McGiffin - has been having a hard time adjusting to changes in some medications
- \*Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues for them
- \*Larry Bey - asked for prayers for his Parkinson’s
- \*Crew Neaves—recovering from teeth surgery and preparing for an upcoming heart surgery
- \*Chuck Edwards (Judah Gasper’s uncle) - has cancer and is not doing well
- \*Alfred Abbey - recovering from ankle surgery

- \*Josiah (Alena’s brother) - broke his arm
- \*Shane Brock - having foot/ankle pain, getting shots in ankle for it
- \*Amy Chiappetta (Sharon Dissarro’s aunt) - has breast cancer
- \*Heather Tremblett’s mom, Karen Wilson (friends of McGiffin’s) - needing a lung transplant
- \*Lani Pettit (Sharon Dissarro’s aunt) - dealing with a UTI
- \*Michelle Gasper’s grandmother, Diane - recently diagnosed with colon cancer

**How can we be praying for YOU?**

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

**Sunday, April 3**

Bible Classes 32  
AM Attendance 34  
PM Attendance 33

**Wednesday, April 6**

Bible Classes 24  
Contribution \$1,285.01

# Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



## April 10, 2022

Worship Times:

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

**Guest Speaker: JD Buckner**

**from the Lebanon Rd Church of Christ, TN**

4599 Children’s Home Bradford Rd  
Greenville, OH 45331

[www.greenvillecoc.org](http://www.greenvillecoc.org)

We are happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting, you are our honored guests and we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card and let us get to know you.