

Title: BEYOND FAMILIAL TIES, JOHN 14:22-24.
(Chatham, NJ; 05/09/10, AM) [Ps – Question and Answer Outline]

Theme: Our relationship and intimacy with God are determined by our familiarity with his Word and by our obedience to his commands.

Purpose: To inspire us to live with his presence by loving his word and obeying his laws.

Introduction:

1. Familial relationships are ties that bind tightly.
2. Yet as members of the family of God we are brought into an adopted family without the normal ties: physical lineage.
3. The family of God—the church—transcends that.
4. Jesus demonstrates how.
5. Let's look at a few passages. I'll give you an answer and we'll figure out the question along the way.

I. Obedience (Luke 8:21).

- A. Jesus establishes an important ground rule in Luke 8:19-21.
 1. His family is looking for him.
 2. Yet he establishes familial relationships beyond lineage.
 3. Those who do the will of God are members of my family, 21.
- B. Love and obedience reciprocal, John 14:15 & 21.
 1. If you love me you'll keep my commandments, 14:15.
 2. The one who loves me is the one who obeys, vs. 21.
 3. 1 John 2:3 affirms that obedience demonstrates intimacy with God.
 4. Only in obedience do we truly know him.
 5. This is a kinship of wills and goals. When we abide by God's will, we become one in spirit with him.

Question: What is the foundation of our kinship and family ties with God?

II. Words and actions.

- A. The story of Cyrano de Bergerac.
 1. A French soldier and author in the 17th century
 2. A fictional character in a play by Edmond Rostand written in 1897
 3. Synopsis of the story: Roxanne loved the man who wrote love poetry to her.
- B. We love Jesus through what he says and what he does.
 1. He tells the disciples that they should believe because of the works that he does, John 14:11.
 2. Some are completely taken by Jesus' words, John 7:46.
 3. Can't we say that we love Christ for his words and deeds?
 4. He offers love, kindness, and healing to the downtrodden.
 5. He sacrifices his life for ours.

The Question: What is the true foundation of why we love someone—even if we've never met him?

III. God makes his home with us.

A. God and Jesus present with us.

1. They make their home with anyone who keeps God's word, Jn. 14:23.
2. God is present when his Word lives in our hearts like the sun is present when we feel its rays.
3. "Making his home with us" sounds like we become a family member.
4. In Revelation 3:20 Jesus offers to eat with whomever invites him in.
5. We invite him in when we take his Word into our hearts.

B. Abiding in Christ.

1. If we love Christ we will abide in his Word, John 15:10.
2. If we do that he abides with us.

Question: What does God do when we keep his word in our hearts?

Conclusion:

1. Obedience is the foundation of our kinship with God.
2. We love one another because of their words and actions are worthy of our affection.
3. When we keep God's Word in our hearts, God is there with us.
4. We are the family of God (Luke 8); God is at home with us.
5. This is an entirely new way to do family, but it is the way of life and peace, and the one family that truly matters.