



Why talk about the subject of family? Two reasons: 1) Because Americans – including professing Christian Americans, are genuinely interested in the subject. From a sociological perspective, studies on the family have produced over 50,000 books. From an identity perspective, over 70% of Americans see their identity (or commitment) to their biological family as more important than their race or their religion. The family clearly matters to Americans – including again, professing Christian Americans. It is their primary interest and their preferred identity. Which leads directly to the second reason, 2) Jesus’ (and the NT writers’) view of family is not only very different, but in most cases, diametrically opposed to the views of Americans -including once more, professing Christian Americans. Which means if we are to continue as His legitimate followers --as well as defend against the flaky and false views of many who espouse to be Christian, we need to know the subject of family according to Jesus. Here (then) is what we need to know:

1. Our _____ into Jesus places us into a new family.

2. Since baptism makes us members of the church, the church represents our _____.

3. The _____ – not the biological family, is the greatest institution created by God.

4. To follow Jesus, a person must demonstrate loyalty to _____ over their biological family.

5. Jesus only recognized as family those who were _____ to God.

6. Jesus predicted that His demands (including His views on the church family) would cause _____ between many Christians and their biological families.

7. Jesus’ _____ was disturbed by His radical view of family.

8. Jesus indicated that our practice of His radical view of family would be one of the clearest _____ to the world that we are His disciples.

CLOSING CONTEMPLATION: