

## The Church Is GOD'S FAMILY

*"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16: 13-19)*

God the Creator of the whole universe, He is the God of love who created us out of His love to us. This is the account of creation of man in the book of Genesis, *"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (Genesis 1: 26-28)* God Created man on His own image, male and female He created them to have fellowship with them. Our God is a social God, He love to live with man and fellowship with him. And upon that fellowship with God and with one another God blessed Adam and Eve as He declared: *"Let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."* That was the blessings that God bestowed on man whom He created and with whom He fellowshiped with.

As we know that Adam and Eve they sinned against God when they disobeyed Him and ate from the tree that God ordered they should not eat from. But even with that God love did not change. Although He punished Adam and Eve and the serpent that deceived them, but He promised that from the offspring of the woman there is one who will crush the head of the devil, the serpent. This offspring of the woman is the Lord Jesus Christ who born from virgin Marry; He was born as a man as the scripture says: *"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir."* (Galatians 4: 3-7)

Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came from heaven to save mankind from sin and death. He is the Messiah and the anointed one of God. Jesus when asked His

disciples, who do you say I am? Simon Peter was the first one who answered Him, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* That recognition and acceptance that Jesus is the Christ, that was a revelation from God as He said to Peter, *"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."* (Matthew 16: 17) And directly after that Jesus promised Peter the following: *"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."* (Matthew 16: 18) Therefore we can see clearly that after Peter confession of Christ, God used him to build His church on.

Salvation is a personal matter. It is your own personal decision to repent from your sins and accept Christ death on the cross for your sins and to give you eternal life. But one important point we need to emphasize here that *God covenant of salvation is given to those who would form His church.* Because God is a loving Lord who love to live with His people, and He wants those whom He gave birth by His Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ, He want them to be in His image and likeness. God is loving and He wants us to be loving and caring to one another. When we receive Jesus and become born again God would place us in His family, the church, and He wants us to be faithful to Him and to His church. *"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord."* (Ephesians 2: 19-21) When we are born again we are no more strangers but we are in the family of God, His church, that build on the Word of God.

The church is not a building or facilities but people who received Christ as Saviour and Lord and who are build by the Word of God. They are Joined together with Him to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him we too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. Therefore to remain in Christ and God is also to remain attached and contained in His church. To keep your salvation is to keep your relationship with God that based on your holy living as well as your holy relationship with one another within His church, the family God.

***My Dear and Beloved:*** God covenant of salvation with those whom He call to form His church is accompanied by promises and blessings. To be faithful to Him is to be faithful to His church, the family that He planted. Therefore obey God and trust His Word to you. Keep yourself with the family of God; enjoying God's blessing, and be a blessing to others who are with you in His church as you agree to pray.

***My prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the church and the spiritual family that you had placed me in. I bless You Master for that, and I promise You to be faithful to You and to Your church. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*