

Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 15 "I was formed for God's family."

Just as man was created in the image of God, so too was the human family created in the image of God's family. Putting aside for a moment the position and role of the Holy Spirit, we know that God's family has included, from before time began, the person of a Father and that of a Son. They have always shared perfect love, and the Son has always been in perfect submission to the Father:

"And He Who sent Me is ever with Me; My Father has not left Me alone, for I always do what pleases Him." Jn 8:29 [Amplified Bible]

When God created Adam and Eve, it was to share perfect love with them, and for them to be in perfect submission to Him. In choosing their own way, rather than submission, they also destroyed the perfect love relationship God desires with mankind. It is impossible to reestablish the one without the other. Heaven is for God's family, and becoming God's child requires accepting and yielding to His authority – just as His only begotten Son always has. It is certainly possible, and unfortunately common, for children who are much too immature to survive on their own to imagine they are grown up, or even superheroes. Imagining, however, does not make it so. Just as a small child who tries to live alone in the wilderness is doomed, so too is the human spirit that separates itself from its family. On the other hand, the obedient child that clings to its family, being protected by a loving Father while learning from and growing with an abundance of siblings, is heir to all the riches of the Father. And just as normal family life is structured by rituals (the way a mother calls to her children, where everyone sits at the dining table, the way the beds are made, etc.), God gives us the comfort and security of a variety of rituals that are part of life in His family. One of these is baptism and another is communion. There is no reason for God's children to worry about understanding the fullness of the Father's reasons for establishing the family rituals as He did. They are a wonderful part of the rich family life our loving Father has created for us, and are to be enjoyed.

- God's design for families is perfect – everyone fits and everyone is blessed.
- God's family is founded on the Father's love and the children's submission.
- Life in God's family is rich and varied, and involves various rituals established by the Father.
- The Father superintends the growth of His children so that they can receive the fullness of their inheritance.

Today, examine your faith in the goodness of the Father's plans for you. Are you afraid that submission to Him be more trouble than it is worth? If you understand that you cannot live and flourish apart from God, make a commitment – in writing – to stay in His household and grow as a part of His family. What can you gain for yourself that compares to the inheritance that your loving Father has reserved for you?
