

The family of God is ethnically and culturally diverse. As Christians we not only permit such diversity, but we *cherish* it. This is because God Himself cherishes ethnic diversity. He is not *color-blind*; He is *colorful*. At His throne God welcomes worshipers "from every nation, tribe, people and language" (Rev. 7:9). His plan of redemption is for the peoples of the world in all their rich variety.

Philip Graham Ryken

I heard of a man who said to the preacher, "I want to sing in your choir." The preacher replied, "But you don't belong here. Where do you have your membership?" He said, "I don't belong to any local church. I belong to the invisible church." The pastor said, "Then I suggest that you join the invisible choir."

Vance Havner

If we want the meaning and the worth and the beauty and the power of the cross of Christ to be seen and loved in our churches, and if the design of the death of His Son is not only to reconcile us to God but to reconcile alienated ethnic groups to each other in Christ, then will we not display and magnify the cross of Christ better by more and deeper and sweeter ethnic diversity and unity in our worship and life?

John Piper

In John 13 the point was that, if an individual Christian does not show love toward other true Christians, the world has a right to judge that he is not a Christian. Here (in John 17:21) Jesus is stating something else which is much more cutting, much more profound: We cannot expect the world to believe the Father sent the Son, that Jesus' claims are true, and that Christianity is true, unless the world sees some reality of the oneness of true Christians.

Francis Schaeffer

Unanimity in things necessary; liberty in things not necessary; in all things prudence and charity

Herman Witsius

The differences among Christians are nothing in comparison of the differences among heathens.

Richard Baxter

What! At peace with the Father, and at war with His children? It cannot be.

John Flavel

The Privilege of God's Family

Psalm 15

Introduction: To the privileges of God's Son and God's Word, we now add God's Family. But what can be said about those who get to live with God? What do those in God's family look like? How do they act, work, and speak? As we answer these questions from Psalm 15, we are reminded that we're actually taking about us, the family of God at Northpoint. As we face the future, with all of its unknowns, it will only be our character as God's children that will make it true of us that we "*will never be shaken*" (Psalm 15:5c).

The Question

vs. 1

What does it mean to "dwell" in God's tent?
What do those who dwell in God's tent look like?

The Answer

vs. 2

The big 3: *Who you are* • *What you do* • *What you say*

Personal Integrity: *In the neighborhood*

vs. 3-4b

Righteous speech • Righteous deeds • Righteous friendship
Righteous contempt • Righteous community

Professional Integrity: *In the marketplace*

vs. 4c-5b

Righteous promise-keeping • Righteous financial dealings
Righteous use of power

The Promise

vs. 5c

The call to perseverance • The blessing of permanence

Privileges We Share

To be a child of God
To live with the family of God
To rest in the provision and protection of God
To pursue the mission assigned to the family of God

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The Question

vs. 1

What does it mean to "dwell" in God's tent?

What do those who dwell in God's tent look like?

The Answer

vs. 2

The big 3:

Who you are: *integrity*

What you do: *righteousness*

What you say: *truth*

Personal Integrity: *In the neighborhood*

vs. 3-4b

Righteous speech

Righteous deeds

Righteous friendship

Righteous contempt

Righteous community

Professional Integrity: *In the marketplace*

vs. 4c-5b

Righteous promise-keeping

Righteous financial dealings

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The Promise

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The call to perseverance

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Kids Notes

The Privilege of God's Family

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. To "live in God's tent" (Psalm 15) means:

- A. to live as part of the family of God.
- B. to have to sleep every night in the church auditorium.
- C. to sleep out under the stars every night.
- D. all of the above.

2. Those who are in God's family:

- A. live with integrity in all areas of life.
- B. are righteous in how they act.
- C. are truthful in what they say.
- D. all of the above.

3. Those who love and follow Christ don't:

- A. get involved in gossip or slander.
- B. ever get into any trouble.
- C. need to be honest.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: What does it mean to "dwell" with God? What are some of the "family traits" of those in God's family?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

FAMILY _____	TOTAL: _____
INTEGRITY _____	_____
RIGHTEOUS _____	_____
FRIENDS _____	_____
UNITY _____	_____
MISSION _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

FAMILY INTEGRITY RIGHTEOUS FRIENDS UNITY MISSION JESUS
 GOD DIVISION BREAK TENT HILL HOLY DWELL ABIDE SOJOURN
 REPROACH SWEARS HONOR MONEY BRIBES INTEREST SHAKEN
 LOVE FAITH GRACE HURT SLANDER GOSSIP TONGUE SPEECH

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S V S J M N S U X Q Y D L H V G S
R T N E T O N K S R W L C L R Z P
A X Y A J I N E A U F A I A I D E
E A C O T S B E K E O R C M W H E
W M U Y B I E R Y R R E I L A K C
S R Y E R V P D P H B B T E V F H
N T L B O I R E D N A L S H N F G
M L O L Y D R S H A K E N E G D K
I L H N H O N O R S U S E J F I S
S E C E G E P K H U R T A P A O R
S W S Q Q U E I E H V J J U I I L
I D H R W D E K Z I X O U I T Y O
O G Y T I R G E T N I O Q L H G W
N V O B U U Z P I N T E R E S T L
K U A D Q I C S X N O M Q O Y A H

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