

# UNDERSTANDING THE FAMILY OF GOD ELM JAN 95

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

It is normal for us to think of families with a father. Someone described as the 'firstborn' is clear, but may indicate that there were others born of the same parents. In a usual family, there is also the wife of the father. There are hundreds of examples of the 'normal' family in the Bible.

In Genesis 5:3-4 it speaks of Adam and Eve having children, Cain and Able, then it speaks of Seth who is described as being: Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth:

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; 2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. 3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and **begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth:**

Incidentally, Seth was described as being in Adam's likeness, and after his image, and this is not said of Cain or Abel. Seth's generations and genealogy were genetically pure, and Noah was in his line.

Genesis 6:9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Genesis 5:4 And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters: 5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

So Adam lived 960 years, just 70 years short of a thousand years, in agreement with the prophecy given by God that "in the day that you sin, you shall die." This is the first indication that a thousand years in God's sight is one day. So Adam died within one day as God reckons it, within the thousand years.

Male and female are in the image of God. Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David and also through the New Testament, 'normal' families are described. We know what a 'normal' family is, so when God talks of His family, it has the 'normal' structure we think of with that word.

Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God (everyone on earth has some sense of a God), they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Darwin's theoretical ideas are now regarded as fact. Godless people, virtually the whole world, have come to believe in the ridiculous theory that everything came from nothing! Everything came from primordial soup, but nobody ever asks where the ingredients of the 'soup' came from. The Laws that govern the universe, like light, heat, gravity, electricity, the electromagnetic spectrum, were just all there. How? This is not addressed.

Everything on earth reproduces "after its kind". That is clearly demonstrated in everything we see that is alive. Adaptations exist in plenty in 'nature', but to suggest that one genus changes to another is nonsense, and has never been demonstrated.

Romans 1:25 Who (almost everyone!) changed the truth of God (the Creation) into a lie (evolution is a lie), and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

God looks like us, and therefore we look like Him. Potentially all six billion humans are all God's children. Who am I? We can call God our Father, and even in our close moments with Him we can call Him "Abba". That we look like God is not allegorical, or figurative, or a 'story', or symbolic, it is real, it is a fact.

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons (Greek: children) of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

But we do know Him, because this truth has been revealed to those who God is working with throughout human history, but the billions do not.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, **now** are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Note the word NOW, not some time in the future, we ARE NOW the children of God, albeit still puny humans, but we have the rank of “Children of God”, we are Royalty!

At the resurrection we shall be like him in appearance and power; and we shall then be able to see Him as he actually is now.

Technically, legally, we are NOW the children of the Most High God. Human beings **are** the family of God. Our potential is to become just like our Father with the powers that He has. It is said that we only use one or two percent of our brain power. In fact we are ‘creators’ like our Father, and even as puny human beings, we have the inherent capacity to create anything we put our minds to. There is something in our makeup that makes us want to create things the way God does. God knows this, and has had to slow mankind’s development down in the past, and we are still restrained.

Genesis 11:6 And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

But ‘Babel’ became the centre of worldliness, wickedness, and ungodliness through all the ages until this present day, and remains the unseen power system that makes this present evil world the way it is.

1 Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Not some, not many, but it is God's will that **ALL** humans are saved. All will eventually come to a knowledge of the truth, not now, but the time will certainly come, some in the first resurrection, others later.

We do not need any man, or any organization, or 'church' dignitary, or anyone else to come between us and our Father.

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power (of God) thereof; from such turn away.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

The **man** (Gk. Anthropos) Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was a MAN, and experienced what it is like to be fully human, and it was this experience that enabled Him to present Himself to His Father and have all our sins erased.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

God has a body, a tangible body made of spiritual matter, with arms and hands, and legs and feet. A Spirit body is not a will'o'the-wisp. The wind can be a mighty force we understand, especially in relation to storms and cyclones. Spirit, 'ruach', 'pneuma', we certainly know what pneumatic forces can do when applied in a road drill!

John 6:28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said unto them: This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

This is our Work, to believe in Jesus Christ, not follow any man who claims he is doing God's work and tells us how to worship God! The Holy Bible is the only safe way to learn what God wants us to know. And we have the promise that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all the truth, that we can handle at any time!

II Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye (Christians with God's Holy Spirit) are the temple of the living God;

as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

How clear is that? Sons and daughters are part of a family. Jesus Christ is the Firstborn Son of God, and He is our Elder Brother, and we are in Him, under God the Father, as part of the Royal Family!

Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (fitting or ready) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature (creation):

Christ is the first human man to become resurrected into the God Family.

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Jesus Christ was the Elohim or the YHWH who actually performed the Creation under the direction of the Father.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church (the ecclesia in heaven and earth): who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things (to the Father and) unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Paul most certainly wrote the book of Hebrews. Its rightful place is in the 10<sup>th</sup> position in Paul's writings.

Hebrews 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? 7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

God through Jesus Christ created Adam and Eve, mankind to be a little lower than the angels in rank, and set us over all the fauna and flora of the earth, but not yet everything! That is our glorious future to come.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the (purpose of the) suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 5:8 Though He were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Jesus was also made a man, one lower than the angels in rank, for the very purpose of experiencing what it was actually like to be a human being, and He learned what we go through as He was “tested in all points” and knows what it is like for us.

And to suffer and die for us, so that we would not die, (although we have all ‘died’ once when Christ died for all) but have everlasting life. We shall also be crowned with glory and honour.

Hebrews 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Christ Jesus is the “captain”, the leader, the One who went before, for us to follow.

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Jesus is NOW at the right hand of the Father, and in a sense we are right there now in heaven too (Not when we die!! But NOW), as we are IN HIM.

Salvation for humans means to be glorified and raised to the rank of the God-plane.

Paul frequently uses the word “brethren” in his epistles, but this should not be seen as a religious term as used in many churches, as we are literally

brothers and sisters in Christ. This 'brotherly' relationship is actual, not allegorical or symbolic.

Only one of God's sons came through a human being and was born to Mary, and was a man for the time He was on this earth. The Father and Christ are One. One God, One Family.

Hebrews 2: 11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them (that is us!) brethren, 12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church (the ecclesia in heaven) will I sing praise unto thee. 13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children (the family) which God hath given me.

Hebrews 2: 14 Forasmuch then as the children (us, we humans) are partakers of flesh and blood, he (Jesus Christ) also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death (under the penalty of the law) were all their lifetime subject to bondage (to the physical laws). 16 For verily he (Christ) took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham (as a man).

When Christ became a man, he brought in a New Testament of New Spiritual Laws, and this changed everything about our relationship to God. It removed the 'enmity' or the separation of man and God, and brought us into the Family of God.

Hebrews 2: 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him (Jesus Christ) to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he (Jesus Christ) himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them (us) that are tempted.

Succour: Succour is help given to people who are suffering or in difficulties, to give aid, assist, befriend, comfort, encourage, foster, give encouragement to, minister to, relieve, render assistance to, support.

All these words are real, and describe what Christ, our elder brother, wants to do, and actually does do for each of us even if sometimes we do not realize or appreciate it.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith (not works of straining to keep laws we could not possibly keep), we have peace with God through

our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Here comes a difficult bit.

Romans 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Yes, but it is not at all easy sometimes to be a Christian.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost (Spirit) which is given unto us. 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we (should) also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

The day of Atonement was a day of mourning and fasting, and does not have very happy associations when it should. We are reconciled to God, and no longer estranged from Him in any way because of our relationship with Christ.

Reconciled: make peace between, re-establish friendly relations between, restore harmony between, reunite, abolish enmity.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

However hard we might have tried we could not be anything but estranged from God because of the penalties of the law – until God sent Jesus Christ into the world, to abolish the enmity, and reconcile us to God Himself.

Ephesians 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the **enmity**, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;



Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

We are not under law now, but under grace which is unmerited undeserved free pardon.

Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death (the death of Christ), even so might grace reign through (Christ's) righteousness unto (to His resurrection and) eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Those who still put themselves 'under the law' of Moses, designed for physical people in a physical age continue to be blinded by the "vail"

II Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away **in the reading of the old testament**; which vail is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

So-called 'Christian ministers', (actually ministers of Satan the Devil) who teach a 'false gospel', or continue to preach the keeping of even parts of the Law of Moses are blinded by this thick veil that covers their eyes and their hearts. They condemn themselves to enmity to God by refusing to accept the true nature of Christ's sacrifice, thus denying Him, and His ushering in the new law of Love and Grace.

II Corinthians 3:16 Nevertheless when it (anyone) shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. 17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

The new spiritual law is liberty (of the mind), love, and freedom (from the penalty of the law).

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

It is amazing (and hard to believe!) when we look in a glass mirror, and realize as we look at ourselves, that we are indeed now members of the Family of God, called into the “Gospel of Glory”, His actual children. But that is the truthful declaration of the Holy Scriptures.

We are chosen and sanctified, or set apart for a Holy purpose.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

II Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning (before the world was created!) chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The glory which Christ now has at the right hand of the Father. He talks to His Father on the day before He was crucified in John 17.

John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

It is no wonder we feel a bit lonely at times, as we realize that the person in the street cannot understand a bar of what we know.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Sanctify, or set them apart for a Holy Purpose through the truth, and the truth **only** comes from the Word, the Bible.

We are not involved with worldly ‘brotherly love’ but the love we have between us and living in us is because we know who we really are, God’s children.

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

We are indeed all one. Not in the pseudo-spiritual counterfeit way believed by many in the 'New Age' movement, but in true reality. We who have the Spirit at this time, and even also those who do not, are all one family.

Ephesians 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family (everyone) in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

We are already part of the God family and destined to control, beautify, and sustain the universes for eternity. An exciting future, we will not be strumming a harp in 'heaven'. We are kings and queens even now. This little speck that is this earth, is the most important of all the heavenly bodies at this time.

Because of this understanding of the family, we need to cultivate respect for all people on earth as being God's children. Not always an easy task. We should treat our next door neighbour, or the person on the checkout, and everyone with whom we come in contact with the same respect as we would if they were Jesus Christ. And even if anyone is an enemy at the moment, in not a very long time, anyone who does not treat me with respect will shortly do so when Christendom covers the earth.

We never need anyone over us, imposing their ideas on us. We need to allow the ideas that God wants us to dwell on flow freely as directed by the Spirit of Truth.

Psalm 82:6 6 I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. 7 But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.

Here Jesus is talking to Jews, to human beings who did not have the Holy Spirit at this time, said, "Ye are gods".

John 10: 30 I and my Father are one. 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. 34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? 35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; 36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am

the Son of God? 37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.  
38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

If we let people (anyone) know that we are now raised to the God family, and that the name Elohim could be used as our name, we would be regarded as being blasphemous like Christ was when He said, "I am that I am." How many people understand these truths now, very very few! Even if they are Christians, they read straight over these amazing truths and do not 'see' or recognize what they are saying.

These are not religious terms here, they are normal terms describing the members of any family. If the king of a country has a son, then that son is his heir, and will become king in due time.

Esau gave up his birthright for a bowl of porridge, and there are some today who give up their present chance for kingship because of the pull of the world.

Genesis 1:26. Let US, one family, one Father. Make man in our image, in the image of God created He them, male and female created He them.

The God family is made up of males and females, and more will be added. Look at how God makes things, all around us, there is evidence of male and female, and in the mineral world there are positive and negative forces. In the Divine Hierarchy there are other individuals, that Jesus Christ has to remonstrate with on occasions when they do not perform as they have been asked to.

The family in heaven is not completely without family difficulties! Why is there so much emphasis throughout the whole Bible on getting on with other people? It is because we are like God and His family, and all is not totally peace and tranquility in His family. There is a time coming when all those issues will be reconciled, in fact by Christ Himself, the firstborn and harmony will reign!

I Timothy 2:5 There is One God, and One Mediator between God and man.

We do not need any other angels, or persons of any kind, everything is done by Christ.

People have made up a Godhead of three, a closed Godhead, by the doctrines of the Trinity which denies the possibility of others joining the Family. The Trinity doctrine is one of the most heinous notions ever cooked

up. Making the Holy Spirit an entity instead of the Power of God is idolatrous.

Here is the real Trinity, I Timothy 2:5 which is entirely Biblical, there is God the Father, the Christ the Firstborn Son, and Us (Human Beings - Me!)

Idolatry is so very wrong because it masks who we really are.

I John 5:20-21 Flee idolatry because it takes you away from the Truth.

God sees two, Himself and Christ who includes all of us, but which is actually all ONE.

Hebrews 12:5- For you have forgotten the exhortation, my son despise not the chastening of the Lord... What son is he who God chastens not... but leads to great rewards.

Verse 22 we are come to Mount Zion and the Heavenly ecclesia to the firstborn **ones** plural in Greek.

We need to act as Christians should, as our Father in Heaven wants us to live and behave, with the realization of knowing who we are, and what we are to become, an integral part of the ruling God Family of the Universes.

Thy Kingdom Come!