

Family Reunion

When I was a child, my mother's family would get together each June in the park down on the Leon River in Belton. The McKee and the Montgomery families had moved into the Belton area after the death of my grandfather McKee in Mississippi. Belton eventually became the meeting place for all of the scattered descendants of my great-grandfather. It was a time to get together and become reacquainted with each other and to better get to know my cousins and hear more about my grands that I never met.

I love getting together with family – my children, my grandchildren, my nephews and nieces from my sisters and my wife's siblings, even THEIR children and grandchildren. Family means a great deal to me. Having said that, reuniting each Sunday and Wednesday with my spiritual family means a lot to me as well.

We are brothers and sisters in Christ, and comprise a spiritual family that we should feel close to and should enjoy being together with. When brothers and sisters don't attend our services, there is a definite void felt. This is especially true of our small congregation here at Columbus Avenue. When we meet together the four hours or so each week, it becomes easily evident who are not here. You've missed out on the opportunity to better know your family, and also to learn more about our Father God.

I know there are legitimate reasons for not being here. This article is not addressed to those who are ill or must work to support one's family. However, many "reasons" are simply excuses. People often pick a selfish excuse over the selfless choice of sacrificing one's time in service to the Lord.

When we meet together, we honor God with our singing and study of His word. We have the opportunity to approach Him in prayer and pray for one another's wellbeing. On Sunday, we memorialize our Lord's sacrifice on the cross in the partaking of the bread and the cup. By New Testament example, it is the main reason we come together and each Sunday is when we "do in remembrance" of Him. Not partaking of the Lord's Supper is NOT an option.

As an extra bonus of our worship, we encourage each other by our attendance. Just like seeing a long-lost cousin, seeing a brother or sister in Christ after an extended absence makes one filled with joy. Please believe the truth of that statement!

Jesus said:

**"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."
(Luke 9:62)**

He also said:

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life^[1] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. (Matthew 16:24-27)

It's not about YOU, it's about HIM. Service to Him is more important than any excuse you may have for not attending His family reunion. See you next Sunday!