

## ~FAMILY (938)

[Hebrew, *mish-pa-chah'*, Greek, *pa-tri-a'* ]

• Structure And Conservation Of Family

• Under The Law Covenant

• Importance Of The Family In The Christian Congregation?

• The Hebrew term *mish-pa-chah'*, family, in addition to referring to a household, also means, by extension, a tribe, people, or nation. The Greek word *pa-tri-a'*, also is broad in its scope. Yehowah God is the originator of the family arrangement. He is the Father of his heavenly family and the one to whom all the families on earth owe their name.

• On account of this I bend my knees to the Father. (**Ephesians 3:14**)

• To whom every **family** in heaven and on earth owes its name. (**Ephesians 3:15**)

• This is so because Yehowah established the first human **family**, and by this means he purposed that the earth be filled. Additionally, He permitted Adam, though a sinner, to have a **family** and have children in his likeness, in his image.

• And Adam lived on for a hundred and thirty years. Then he became father to a son in his likeness, in his image, and called his name Seth. (**Genesis 5:3**)

• In the Bible, Yehowah has since made clear that He accords great importance to the divinely granted power of procreation, the means by which a man can carry on his name and **family** line in the earth.

• In view of that Judah said to Onan; Have relations with your brother's wife and perform brother-in-law marriage with her and raise up offspring for your brother. (**Genesis 38:8**)

• But Onan knew that the offspring would not become his, and it occurred that when he did have relations with his brother's wife he wasted his semen on the earth so as not to give offspring to his brother. (**Genesis 38:9**)

• Now what he did was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, hence he put him also to death. (**Genesis 38:10**)

- In case brothers dwell together and one of them has died without his having a son, the wife of the dead one should not become a strange man's outside. Her brother-in-law should go to her, and he must take her as his wife and perform brother-in-law marriage with her. (**Deuteronomy 25:5**)
- And it must occur that the firstborn whom she will bear should succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be wiped out of Israel. (**Deuteronomy 25:6**)
- In case men struggle together with one another, and the wife of the one has come near to deliver her husband out of the hand of the one striking him, and she has thrust out her hand and grabbed hold of him by his privates. (**Deuteronomy 25:11**)
- You must then amputate her hand. Your eye must feel no sorrow. (**Deuteronomy 25:12**)

#### •• Structure And Conservation Of Family

- In ancient Hebrew society the **family** was the basic unit. The **family** was a small government, the father as head was responsible to God, and the mother was the subordinate manager over the children in the household.
- Men, brothers, it is allowable to speak with freeness of speech to you concerning the **family** head David, that he both deceased and was buried and his tomb is among us to this day. (**Acts of Apostles 2:29**)
- Behold, then, how great this man was to whom Abraham, the **family** head, gave a tenth out of the chief spoils. (**Hebrews 7:4**)
- The **family** was, in a small way, a reflection of the grand **family** of God. God is represented in the Bible as a husband, with the Jerusalem above as the mother of his children.
- But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. (**Galatians 4:26**)
- For your Grand Maker is your husbandly owner, Yehowah of armies being his name, and the Holy One of Israel is your Repurchaser. The God of the whole earth he will be called.

**(Isaiah 54:5)**

- The **family** in patriarchal times may be compared in some respects to the modern corporation. There were some things owned by **family** members as personal. But, for the most part, the property was held in common, with the father managing its disposal.
- A wrong committed by a member of the **family** was considered as a wrong against the **family** itself, especially its head. It brought reproach on him, and he was responsible, as the judge of the household, to take the necessary action on the matter.
- Whoever it is with whom you may find your gods, let him not live. Before our brothers, examine for yourself what is with me and take them for yourself. But Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. (**Genesis 31:32**)
- Now Rachel had taken the teraphim, and she resorted to putting them in the woman's saddle basket of the camel, and she kept sitting upon them. So Laban went feeling through the whole tent, but did not find them. (**Genesis 31:34**)
- Now in case the daughter of a priest should make herself profane by committing prostitution, it is her father that she is profaning. She should be burned in the fire. (**Leviticus 21:9**)
- They must also bring the girl out to the entrance of her father's house, and the men of her city must pelt her with stones, and she must die, because she has committed a disgraceful folly in Israel by committing prostitution in the house of her father. So you must clear away what is bad from your midst. (**Deuteronomy 22:21**)
- Then Joshua rose early in the morning and had Israel come near, tribe by tribe of it, and the tribe of Judah got to be picked. (**Joshua 7:16**)
- Next he had the **families** of Judah come near and picked the **family** of the Zerahites, after which he had the **family** of the Zerahites come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and Zabdi got to be picked. (**Joshua 7:17**)
- Finally he had his household come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi,

- the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, got to be picked. (**Joshua 7:18**)
- Then Joshua said to Achan; My son, render, please, glory to Yehowah the God of Israel and make confession to him, and tell me, please, What have you done? Do not hide it from me. (**Joshua 7:19**)
  - At this Achan answered Joshua and said; For a fact I, I have sinned against Yehowah the God of Israel, and this way and that way I have done. (**Joshua 7:20**)
  - When I got to see among the spoil an official garment from Shinar, a good-looking one, and two hundred shekels of silver and one gold bar, fifty shekels being its weight, then I wanted them, and I took them, and, look! They are hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent with the money underneath it. (**Joshua 7:21**)
  - At once Joshua sent messengers, and they went running to the tent, and, look! It was hidden in his tent with the money underneath it. (**Joshua 7:22**)
  - So they took them from the midst of the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the sons of Israel and poured them out before Yehowah. (**Joshua 7:23**)
  - Joshua, and all Israel with him, now took Achan the son of Zerah and the silver and the official garment and the bar of gold and his sons and his daughters and his bull and his ass and his flock and his tent and everything that was his and they brought them up to the low plain of Achor. (**Joshua 7:24**)
  - Then Joshua said; Why have you brought ostracism upon us? Yehowah will bring ostracism upon you on this day. With that all Israel went pelting him with stones, after which they burned them with fire. Thus they stoned them with stones. (**Joshua 7:25**)
  - **Monogamy was the original standard Yehowah set for the family. Although polygamy was later practiced, polygamy was always against the original principle that God laid down. However, he tolerated it until his due time to restore his original standard, which he has done in the Christian congregation.**

- **The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (1 Timothy 3:2)**
- **For instance, a married woman is bound by Law to her husband while he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the Law of her husband. (Romans 7:2)**
- **So, then, while her husband is living, she would be styled an adulteress if she became another man's. But if her husband dies, she is free from his law, so that she is not an adulteress if she becomes another man's. (Romans 7:3)**
- **Under the Law covenant he recognized the existence of polygamy and regulated it so that the family unit was still kept intact and operative. But it was Yehowah himself who said,**
- **That is why a man will leave his father and his mother and he must stick to his wife and they must become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)**
- **In reply he said; Did you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female (Matthew 19:4)**
- **And said; For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh? (Matthew 19:5)**
- **So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has yoked together let no man put apart. (Matthew 19:6)**
- **The record indicates that Adam had only one wife, who became the mother of everyone living.**
- **After this Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she had to become the mother of everyone living. (Genesis 3:20)**
- **Noah's three sons, who began the repopulation of the earth after the global Flood, were all sons of one father and one mother, and each son passed through the Flood with but one wife.**
- **At that Noah went out, and also his sons and his wife and his sons wives with him. (Genesis 8:18)**

- **And God went on to bless Noah and his sons and to say to them: Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth. (Genesis 9:1)**
- **Who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water. (1 Peter 3:20)**

## · Under The Law Covenant

- **In giving the Ten Commandments to Israel, God gave attention to the integrity of the family unit. Honor your father and your mother is the fifth commandment, the first commandment with a promise.**
- **Honor your father and your mother, just as Yehowah your God has commanded you, in order, that your days may prove long and it may go well with you on the ground that Yehowah your God is giving you. (Deuteronomy 5:16)**
- **Honor your father and your mother, which is the first command with a promise. (Ephesians 6:2)**
- **A child rebellious against his parents was as one rebellious against the governmental arrangement established by God as well as against God himself. If he struck or cursed his father or mother, or if he proved to be incorrigibly unmanageable, he was to be put to death.**
- **And one who strikes his father and his mother is to be put to death without fail. (Exodus 21:15)**
- **And one who calls down evil upon his father and his mother is to be put to death without fail. (Exodus 21:17)**
- **In case there should be any man who calls down evil upon his father and his mother, he should be put to death without fail. It is his father and his mother upon whom he has called down evil. His own blood is upon him. (Leviticus 20:9)**
- **In case a man happens to have a son who is stubborn and rebellious, he not listening to the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and they have corrected him but he will not listen to them. (Deuteronomy 21:18)**

- His father and his mother must also take hold of him and bring him out to the older men of his city and to the gate of his place. **(Deuteronomy 21:19)**
- And they must say to the older men of his city; This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He is not listening to our voice, being a glutton and a drunkard. **(Deuteronomy 21:20)**
- Then all the men of his city must pelt him with stones, and he must die. So you must clear away what is bad from your midst, and all Israel will hear and indeed become afraid. **(Deuteronomy 21:21)**
- **Children were to have proper fear of their parents, and a child who treated his father or mother with contempt was cursed.**
- You should fear each one his mother and his father, and my Sabbaths you should keep. I am Yehowah your God. **(Leviticus 19:3)**
- Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt. And all the people must say; Amen! **(Deuteronomy 27:16)**
- **The seventh commandment: You must not commit adultery. Outlawed any sexual union of a married person with another outside the marriage bond.**
- You must not commit adultery. **(Exodus 20:14)**
- **All children were to be family born. An illegitimate son was not recognized, nor were his descendants allowed to become members of the congregation of Israel even to the tenth generation.**
- No illegitimate son may come into the congregation of Yehowah. Even to the tenth generation none of his may come into the congregation of Yehowah. **(Deuteronomy 23:2)**
- **While the seventh commandment, in forbidding adultery, served to safeguard the family unit, the tenth commandment, by forbidding wrong desires, further protected the integrity of one's own family as well as the other man's house and family.**

- The things most common to **family** life were protected by this commandment, namely, house, wife, servants, animals, and other property.
- You must not desire your fellowman's house. You must not desire your fellowman's wife, nor his slave man nor his slave girl nor his bull nor his ass nor anything that belongs to your fellowman. (**Exodus 20:17**)
- Under the Law a careful record of genealogies was kept. **Family** integrity was even more greatly emphasized by the matter of ancestral land inheritance. Genealogies were especially important in the **family** line of Judah and, later on, in the lineage of Judah's descendant David.
- Because of the promise that the Messiah the King would come through these families, the record of **family** relationship was zealously guarded. And even though polygamy was not abolished by the Law, the **family** integrity was protected and its genealogy was kept intact by strict laws governing polygamy.
- In no way was looseness or promiscuity legally tolerated. Sons born of polygamy or concubinage were legitimate, full-fledged sons of the father.

**See Also CONCUBINE**

- The Law specifically prohibited marriage alliances with the seven Canaanite nations that were to be ousted from the land.
- When Yehowah your God at last brings you into the land to which you are going so as to take possession of it, he must also clear away populous nations from before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations more populous and mighty than you are. (**Deuteronomy 7:1**)
- And Yehowah your God will certainly abandon them to you, and you must defeat them. You should without fail devote them to destruction. You must conclude no covenant with them nor show them any favor. (**Deuteronomy 7:2**)
- And you must form no marriage alliance with them. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. (**Deuteronomy 7:3**)

- For he will turn your son from following me, and they will certainly serve other gods, and Yehowah's anger will indeed blaze against you, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry. ([Deuteronomy 7:4](#))
- Because of failing to observe this command, the nation of Israel was ensnared in the worship of false gods and finally brought into captivity by their enemies. Solomon is an outstanding example of one who sinned in this respect.
- Was it not because of these that Solomon the king of Israel sinned? And among the many nations there proved to be no king like him, and loved of his God he happened to be, so that God constituted him king over all Israel. Even him the foreign wives caused to sin. ([Nehemiah 13:26](#))
- Ezra and Nehemiah undertook energetic reforms among those of the repatriated Israelites who were contaminating their **families** and Israel itself by marriage to foreign wives.
- And as soon as these things were finished, the princes approached me, saying; The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands as regards their detestable things, namely, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians and the Amorites. ([Ezra 9:1](#))
- For they have accepted some of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, and they, the holy seed, have become mingled with the peoples of the lands, and the hand of the princes and the deputy rulers has proved to be foremost in this unfaithfulness. ([Ezra 9:2](#))
- And now make confession to Yehowah the God of your forefathers and do his pleasure and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives. ([Ezra 10:11](#))
- Also, in those days I saw the Jews that had given a dwelling to Ashdodite, Ammonite and Moabite wives. ([Nehemiah 13:23](#))
- And as for their sons, half were speaking Ashdodite, and there were none of them knowing how to speak Jewish, but in the

- tongue of the different peoples. (**Nehemiah 13:24**)
- **And I began to find fault with them and call down evil upon them and strike some men of them and pull out their hair and make them swear by God; You should not give your daughters to their sons, and you should not accept any of their daughters for your sons or yourselves. (**Nehemiah 13:25**)**
  - **Was it not because of these that Solomon the king of Israel sinned? And among the many nations there proved to be no king like him, and loved of his God he happened to be, so that God constituted him king over all Israel. Even him the foreign wives caused to sin. (**Nehemiah 13:26**)**
  - **And is it not something unheard of for you to commit all this great badness in acting unfaithfully against our God by giving a dwelling to foreign wives? (**Nehemiah 13:27**)**
  - **When God sent his only-begotten Son to earth he caused him to be born into a human **family**. He provided that he have a God-fearing adoptive father and a loving mother. Jesus as a child was subject to his parents and respected and obeyed them.**
  - **And the young child continued growing and getting strong, being filled with wisdom, and God's favor continued upon him. (**Luke 2:40**)**
  - **And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and he continued subject to them. Also, his mother carefully kept all these sayings in her heart. (**Luke 2:51**)**
  - **Even when he was dying on the torture stake he showed respect and loving care for his mother, who was apparently then a widow, when he said to her;**
  - **Therefore Jesus, seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing by, said to his mother; Woman, see! Your son! (**John 19:26**)**
  - **Next he said to the disciple; See! Your mother! And from that hour on the disciple took her to his own home. (**John 19:27**)**

## •• **Importance Of The Family In The Christian Congregation?**

- In the Christian congregation the **family** is recognized as the basic unit of Christian society. Much space is devoted in the **Christian Greek Scriptures** to instructions regarding **family** relationship. Again the man is dignified with the headship of the **family**, the wife being in subjection to her husband, managing the household under his general oversight.
- But I want you to know that the head of every man is the Christ, in turn the head of a woman is the man, in turn the head of the Christ is God. (**1 Corinthians 11:3**)
- Let a woman learn in silence with full submissiveness. (**1 Timothy 2:11**)
- I do not permit a woman to teach, or to exercise authority over a man, but to be in silence. (**1 Timothy 2:12**)
- For Adam was formed first, then Eve. (**1 Timothy 2:13**)
- Also, Adam was not deceived, but the woman was thoroughly deceived and came to be in transgression. (**1 Timothy 2:14**)
- However, she will be kept safe through childbearing, provided they continue in faith and love and sanctification along with soundness of mind. (**1 Timothy 2:15**)
- Therefore I desire the younger widows to marry, to bear children, to manage a household, to give no inducement to the opposer to revile. (**1 Timothy 5:14**)
- Likening Jesus to the husband and **family** head over his congregational wife; Paul admonishes husbands to exercise headship in love, and he counsels wives to respect and subject themselves to their husbands.
- Be in subjection to one another in fear of Christ. (**Ephesians 5:21**)
- Let wives be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord. (**Ephesians 5:22**)
- Because a husband is head of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of this body. (**Ephesians 5:23**)

- **In fact, as the congregation is in subjection to the Christ, so let wives also be to their husbands in everything. (Ephesians 5:24)**
- **Husbands, continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also loved the congregation and delivered up himself for it. (Ephesians 5:25)**
- **That he might sanctify it, cleansing it with the bath of water by means of the word. (Ephesians 5:26)**
- **That he might present the congregation to himself in its splendor, not having a spot or a wrinkle or any of such things, but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:27)**
- **In this way husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (Ephesians 5:28)**
- **For no man ever hated his own flesh, but he feeds and cherishes it, as the Christ also does the congregation. (Ephesians 5:29)**
- **Because we are members of his body. (Ephesians 5:30)**
- **For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. (Ephesians 5:31)**
- **This sacred secret is great. Now I am speaking with respect to Christ and the congregation. (Ephesians 5:32)**
- **Nevertheless, also, let each one of you individually so love his wife as he does himself, on the other hand, the wife should have deep respect for her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)**
- **Children are commanded to obey their parents, and fathers particularly are charged with the responsibility of bringing up the children in the discipline and mental-regulating of Yehowah.**
- **Children, be obedient to your parents in union with the Lord, for this is righteous. (Ephesians 6:1)**
- **Honor your father and your mother, which is the first command with a promise. (Ephesians 6:2)**
- **That it may go well with you and you may endure a long time on**

- the earth. (**Ephesians 6:3**)
- **And you, fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Yehowah. (**Ephesians 6:4**)**
  - **The man used as an overseer in the Christian congregation, if married, must exhibit high standards as a **family** head, presiding properly and having his children in subjection, these not being unruly or charged with debauchery, for, asks Paul;**
  - **The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (**1 Timothy 3:2**)**
  - **Not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, but reasonable, not belligerent, not a lover of money. (**1 Timothy 3:3**)**
  - **A man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having children in subjection with all seriousness. (**1 Timothy 3:4**)**
  - **If indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation? (**1 Timothy 3:5**)**
  - **If there is any man free from accusation, a husband of one wife, having believing children that were not under a charge of debauchery nor unruly. (**Titus 1:6**)**
  - **Wives are exhorted to love their husbands and children, to be workers at home, and to subject themselves to their own husbands.**
  - **That they may recall the young women to their senses to love their husbands, to love their children. (**Titus 2:4**)**
  - **To be sound in mind, chaste, workers at home, good, subjecting themselves to their own husbands, so that the word of God may not be spoken of abusively. (**Titus 2:5**)**
  - **Jesus foretold that opposition to God's truth would split **families**.**
  - **Everyone, then, that confesses union with me before men, I will also confess union with him before my Father who is in the heavens. (**Matthew 10:32**)**

- **But whoever disowns me before men, I will also disown him before my Father who is in the heavens. (Matthew 10:33)**
- **Do not think I came to put peace upon the earth. I came to put, not peace, but a sword. (Matthew 10:34)**
- **For I came to cause division, with a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a young wife against her mother-in-law. (Matthew 10:35)**
- **Indeed, a man's enemies will be persons of his own household. (Matthew 10:36)**
- **He that has greater affection for father or mother than for me is not worthy of me, and he that has greater affection for son or daughter than for me is not worthy of me. (Matthew 10:37)**
- **Do you imagine I came to give peace on the earth? No, indeed, I tell you, but rather division. (Luke 12:51)**
- **For from now on there will be five in one house divided, three against two and two against three. (Luke 12:52)**
- **They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. (Luke 12:53)**
- **But the apostle Paul strongly admonished believers against breaking up the marriage relationship, appealing on the basis of the welfare of the unbelieving mate as well as of the children.**
- **He stressed the great value of the **family** relationship when he pointed out that God views the young children as holy, even though the unbelieving mate has not been cleansed from his sins by faith in Christ.**
- **The unbeliever may, in fact, be practicing some of the same things that Paul says some Christians had practiced before accepting the Good News about the Christ.**
- **To the married people I give instructions, yet not I but the Lord, that a wife should not depart from her husband. (1 Corinthians 7:10)**

- **But if she should actually depart, let her remain unmarried or else make up again with her husband, and a husband should not leave his wife. (1 Corinthians 7:11)**
- **But to the others I say, yes, I, not the Lord; If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and yet she is agreeable to dwelling with him, let him not leave her. (1 Corinthians 7:12)**
- **And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and yet he is agreeable to dwelling with her, let her not leave her husband. (1 Corinthians 7:13)**
- **For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in relation to his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in relation to the brother, otherwise, your children would really be unclean, but now they are holy. (1 Corinthians 7:14)**
- **But if the unbelieving one proceeds to depart, let him depart, a brother or a sister is not in servitude under such circumstances, but God has called you to peace. (1 Corinthians 7:15)**
- **For, wife, how do you know but that you will save your husband? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save your wife? (1 Corinthians 7:16)**
- **What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled! Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men. (1 Corinthians 6:9)**
- **Nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom. (1 Corinthians 6:10)**
- **And yet that is what some of you were. But you have been washed clean, but you have been sanctified, but you have been declared righteous in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11)**
- **The apostle also guards the unity of the Christian family by giving instructions to husbands and wives regarding the rendering of marriage dues.**
- **Let the husband render to his wife her due, but let the wife also**

do likewise to her husband. (**1 Corinthians 7:3**)

- The wife does not exercise authority over her own body, but her husband does, likewise, also, the husband does not exercise authority over his own body, but his wife does. (**1 Corinthians 7:4**)
- Do not be depriving each other of it, except by mutual consent for an appointed time, that you may devote time to prayer and may come together again, that Satan may not keep tempting you for your lack of self-regulation. (**1 Corinthians 7:5**)
- Association in **family** relationships proved to be a blessing to many in connection with Christianity.
- For, wife, how do you know but that you will save your husband? Or, husband, how do you know but that you will save your wife? (**1 Corinthians 7:16**)
- This is also evidenced by the contents of the apostle Paul's greetings to several households. Some believers were privileged to use the **family** home as a place for the congregation to meet.
- I recommend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a minister of the congregation that is in Cenchreae. (**Romans 16:1**)
- That you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the holy ones, and that you may assist her in any matter where she may need you, for she herself also proved to be a defender of many, yes, of me myself. (**Romans 16:2**)
- Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. (**Romans 16:3**)
- Who have risked their own necks for my soul, to whom not only I but also all the congregations of the nations render thanks. (**Romans 16:4**)
- And greet the congregation that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who is a firstfruits of Asia for Christ. (**Romans 16:5**)
- Greet Mary, who has performed many labors for you. (**Romans 16:6**)

- Greet Andronicus and Junias my relatives and my fellow captives, who are men of note among the apostles and who have been in union with Christ longer than I have. ([Romans 16:7](#))
- Give my greetings to Ampliatus my beloved in the Lord. ([Romans 16:8](#))
- Greet Urbanus our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. ([Romans 16:9](#))
- Greet Apelles, the approved one in Christ. Greet those from the household of Aristobulus. ([Romans 16:10](#))
- Greet Herodion my relative. Greet those from the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. ([Romans 16:11](#))
- Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, women who are working hard in the Lord. Greet Persis our beloved one, for she performed many labors in the Lord. ([Romans 16:12](#))
- Greet Rufus the chosen one in the Lord, and his mother and mine. ([Romans 16:13](#))
- Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them. ([Romans 16:14](#))
- Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the holy ones with them. ([Romans 16:15](#))
- The Christian missionary Philip was a **family** man, having four faithful Christian daughters. He was blessed by being able to entertain the apostle Paul and his fellow workers for a time in his home in Caesarea.
- The next day we set out and arrived in Caesarea, and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelizer, who was one of the seven men, and we stayed with him. ([Acts of Apostles 21:8](#))
- This man had four daughters, virgins, that prophesied. ([Acts of Apostles 21:9](#))
- But while we were remaining quite a number of days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ([Acts of Apostles](#))

## 21:10)

- The Christian congregation itself is termed God's **household**. Its principal member and head is Jesus Christ, and this **household** recognizes him as the Seed by means of whom all the **families** of the earth will bless themselves.
- But in case I am delayed, that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in God's household, which is the congregation of the living God, a pillar and support of the truth. (**1 Timothy 3:15**)
- Certainly, therefore, you are no longer strangers and alien residents, but you are fellow citizens of the holy ones and are members of the household of God. (**Ephesians 2:19**)
- Also, he is before all other things and by means of him all other things were made to exist. (**Colossians 1:17**)
- And he is the head of the body, the congregation. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that he might become the one who is first in all things. (**Colossians 1:18**)
- And by means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves due to the fact that you have listened to my voice. (**Genesis 22:18**)
- And your seed will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will certainly spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your seed all the **families** of the ground will certainly bless themselves. (**Genesis 28:14**)
- The inspired Scriptures have foretold a vicious attack on the **family** institution with a consequent breaking down of morality and of human society outside the Christian congregation. Paul classifies among demon-inspired doctrines in later periods of time that of forbidding to marry.
- He foretells for the last days a condition in which disobedience to parents, disloyalty, and absence of natural affection would be rife, even among those having a form of godly devotion. He warns Christians to turn away from such ones.

- **However, the inspired utterance says definitely that in later periods of time some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1)**
- **By the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, marked in their conscience as with a branding iron. (1 Timothy 4:2)**
- **Forbidding to marry, commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who have faith and accurately know the truth. (1 Timothy 4:3)**
- **But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. (2 Timothy 3:1)**
- **For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal. (2 Timothy 3:2)**
- **Having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness. (2 Timothy 3:3)**
- **Betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God. (2 Timothy 3:4)**
- **Having a form of godly devotion but proving false to its power, and from these turn away. (2 Timothy 3:5)**
- **Babylon the Great, the enemy of God's woman,**
- **And I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head and you will bruise him in the heel. (Genesis 3:15)**
- **For it is written: Be glad, you barren woman who does not give birth. Break out and cry aloud, you woman who does not have childbirth pains, for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than those of her who has the husband. (Galatians 4:27)**
- **Christ's bride,**
- **And there came one of the seven angels who had the seven**

bowls which were full of the seven last plagues, and he spoke with me and said; Come here, I will show you the bride, the Lambs wife. ([Revelation 21:9](#))

- **Is a great harlot organization, committing fornication with the kings of the earth. Being the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth indicates that her daughters are harlots, also that she causes great disregard for Yehowah God's institutions and commandments, including his requirements that contribute to family integrity.**
- **And one of the seven angels that had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying; Come, I will show you the judgment upon the great harlot who sits on many waters. ([Revelation 17:1](#))**
- **With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, whereas those who inhabit the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. ([Revelation 17:2](#))**
- **And he carried me away in the power of the spirit into a wilderness. And I caught sight of a woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored wild beast that was full of blasphemous names and that had seven heads and ten horns. ([Revelation 17:3](#))**
- **And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and was adorned with gold and precious stone and pearls and had in her hand a golden cup that was full of disgusting things and the unclean things of her fornication. ([Revelation 17:4](#))**
- **And upon her forehead was written a name, a mystery. Babylon the Great, the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth. ([Revelation 17:5](#))**
- **And I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the holy ones and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. Well, on catching sight of her I wondered with great wonderment. ([Revelation 17:6](#))**
- **She has made efforts to induce others to harlotry and has succeeded in producing many harlot daughters, with attempts being made to prevent Christ from having a clean bride. Nevertheless, his bride comes through victorious, clean, righteous, worthy of being in**

**Yehowah's family as the wife of Jesus Christ, to the blessing and rejoicing of all the universe.**

- **For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, for I personally promised you in marriage to one husband that I might present you as a chaste virgin to the Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:2)**
- **But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent seduced Eve by its cunning, your minds might be corrupted away from the sincerity and the chastity that are due the Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)**
- **Because his judgments are true and righteous. For he has executed judgment upon the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged the blood of his slaves at her hand. (Revelation 19:2)**
- **And I heard what was as a voice of a great crowd and as a sound of many waters and as a sound of heavy thunders. They said; Praise Yah, you people, because Yehowah our God, the Almighty, has begun to rule as king. (Revelation 19:6)**
- **Let us rejoice and be overjoyed, and let us give him the glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has arrived and his wife has prepared herself. (Revelation 19:7)**
- **Yes, it has been granted to her to be arrayed in bright, clean, fine linen, for the fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the holy ones. (Revelation 19:8)**

**See Also MARRIAGE**