

All in the Family

Genesis 10

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Main Idea: all the families of the earth are really one great family—and one desperately needy family who must be redeemed and reconciled by Jesus Christ. As our minds are conformed to His, we will pray and act for the good of future generations, not seeking that we would be impressive before God, but rather that all would be impressed with Christ!

1. **All humanity is one race, one family. In redemption, God gathers a family in Christ from among all the families of Noah.**

“Now this is the genealogy...” this phrase appears several times in the book of Genesis. It is related to the word for “beget” and the word for “child.” Literally, it means “this is what came from.” What came from the sons of Noah? Everyone. All of us.

You’ve probably heard of humanity referred to as all one family, with God as our Father. Well, that’s partly right. We are all one family, one blood (cf. Acts 17:26). But fallen humanity has rejected God as Father and chosen the devil instead (cf. John 8:42-44!!). So, while it is true that we are all family in Noah, this actually reminds us that we need a way back into the family of God. The way through Adam is closed by sin and wrath. The only way is Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God, who became a Man to be the last Adam (cf. Acts 17:27-31).

On the one hand, we must reject all ethnic racialism—whether hardening our hearts (or words or actions) against someone on the basis of ethnicity, or blaming others for our problems based upon our ethnicity and theirs.

On the other hand, we must confess that our truest brothers and sisters aren’t the ones who have the same blood in our veins. They are the ones who rest upon the same blood for forgiveness of sins. The ones who call God, “abba” by the same indwelling Spirit. These are family in an infinitely greater way than unbelievers can ever be. And Scripture tells us that this is ultimately not just estrangement but enmity. We know that we are to love our enemies. But, as they describe that our views of everything are completely incompatible with theirs, let us not expect them to conclude that they must love us!

2. **Scripture teaches us to live with an eye to future generations.**

Everyone who reads Genesis 10 has ancestors in the text. Think about them. What did each of those men pass on to his children? What did their children pass on? We pass on our blood. But, as we have seen in this passage, there is something much more important to pass on: faith in Jesus Christ. Only the Spirit can give it, but if we are asking with words for the Spirit to give our children faith, let us also be asking by employing the means that the Spirit has appointed through which He gives that faith: Word, sacrament, and prayer!

3. **It’s fatally unimpressive to aim at being impressive, which is the opposite of being impressed with God**

You can see this in Nimrod, especially. Babel and Assyria are the hall of fame of the eventual enemies of God’s people (there are a bunch more in that list). And Nimrod—well, in front of Yahweh’s face, Nimrod was all about his impressiveness, not God’s. These two are always at odds. If we are full of ourselves, we will not be desperate to depend upon Christ and be full of Him. Nimrod. Pharisees. 21st Century Americans. Being full of self gets in the way of trusting in Christ. And Christ is the great divider of humanity.

Conclusion: What this world desperately needs is Christ. Christ for reconciling the races; the knowledge of Christ passed from generation to generation; Christ to be our only impressiveness before God, and the One with whom we also are most impressed so that we find Christ-likeness the most impressive thing in others.