

The Gospel of Mark
The Family of God
Mark 3:31-35

For decades the average family was defined as a husband, wife, 2.5 kids and a dog. (Sorry cat lovers.) In the 21st century all of that has changed. Our culture has defined a new normal for family life and it looks like anything but a nuclear family.

1. The family of God is spiritual not biological.
2. The family of God does the will of God together.

We are responsible to each other and for each other. Our spiritual family is just as real as our biological family. In the flesh, our biological families are sometimes disappointing. Our faith family can be disappointing too. But what Jesus shows us here is that a believer's commitment to Christ is not meant to minimize the either family but to give God His rightful place in both. When we act in love in our biological family and in our faith family we demonstrate that God reigns supremely over us.

For further consideration:

How is Jesus' response to His family good news for us? How is finding Jesus "interesting" or "fascinating" insufficient for inclusion in the family of God? How does Jesus' statement about doing the will of God fit together with the fact that one comes into a right relationship with God only through faith? How does Jesus' statement about His spiritual family being those who do the will of God function as motivation for world missions?