



SEVEN DESIGNATIONS OF THE FAMILY OF GOD

Sunday Afternoon Sermon by Ray Reynolds (4-22-18)
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: Today we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a church family (April 22, 2018)! The Bible calls the 50th year a Jubilee. In the past few lessons we have focused on freedom, forgiveness, celebration and family. I want to close our day by talking about the designations of the family. You know, **Psalm 127:1** says, “Unless the Lord build the house; they labor in vain who build it.” If the Lord has built the church, and is the Head of it, He has the right to name it and work through it. Yes, we are the body of Christ (**I Corinthians 12:27**), believers of the one true faith (**Acts 5:14, II Corinthians 6:15**), and are called the children of God (**Galatians 3:26-27, I John 3:1-2**). However, these examples are just the beginning. I believe there are seven distinct designations that are essential for us to fulfill the calling of God within His family. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

Distinction #1 = Light, Salt, and a City

Matthew 5:13-16, John 1:5, 8:12, Ephesians 5:14, Philippians 2:15, I Peter 2:9, I John 1:5-9

Distinction #2 = Fishers of Men

Matthew 4:19, 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:44-53, Acts 1:7-8, II Timothy 2:2

Distinction #3 = Disciples of Christ

Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:15, 6:1, 7, 9:1, 11:26, 13:52, 14:20-28, 18:23-27, 20:1-7

Distinction #4 = Saints of God

Acts 9:13, Romans 1:7, I Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:2

Distinction #5 = Ambassadors of Christ

Roman 12:3-8, I Corinthians 12:12-27, II Corinthians 5:17-20, Ephesians 3:6, 5:23, 6:20

Distinction #6 = Soldiers of the Cross

Ephesians 6:10-20, Philippians 4:13, II Timothy 2:3-4, Titus 1:16, I Peter 1:13

Distinction #7 = Priests of God

I Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 4:14-16, 10:10-26, I Peter 2:9-10, Revelation 1:6, Exodus 19:1-6

Conclusion: No matter what metaphor we look at, we are a witness to the resurrected Christ (**Acts 1:8**). We are living stones (**I Peter 2:5**) and walking epistles (**II Corinthians 3:2**). We are called to be simply Christians (**Acts 11:26, 26:28, I Peter 4:16**). We are called to go out into the world and bear fruit for the kingdom (**John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23**). We are to sow the good seed (**Matthew 13:3-9, Mark 4:2-9, Luke 8:4-8**) and let God work on the hearts of individuals to yield an increase (**Matthew 13:18-23, Mark 4:13-20, Luke 8:11-15, I Corinthians 3:6-8**). God has already done His part. Are you doing your part? How are you living for God? How are you serving Christ? How are you bearing the fruit of the Spirit? Let’s work together as the family of God.