

10/24/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Kim” was a quiet young woman, raised in an “unchurched” family. When her friend invited her to visit his church family, she accepted. She got hooked on the message that God loved her despite all the wrong things she had done.

Then trouble started. Kim began attending worship every Sunday to learn more about God’s love. Her parents felt left out. They felt God was taking their daughter away from them. Every Sunday morning when Kim left for church, her father called out after her, “See you later, hypocrite!” Her mother scheduled family picnics and events on Sunday mornings. When her daughter chose to go to worship instead, Kim heard, “You love those strangers more than your own family!”

The abuse continued for months. Why would anybody, especially a meek young woman, put up with this? Why not skip worship to appease her parents? What could be worth the hurtful comments and the guilt trips?

God’s love for her! For the first time in Kim’s life, she had experienced a Father’s perfect love. Her heavenly Father knew her darkest secrets. She could hide nothing from him. Yet he still loved her. He had been willing to sacrifice his own Son to make her his own daughter. No matter what she did, he would never stop loving her.

This amazing, unselfish, sacrificial love changed Kim’s heart and her life. She could endure the division in her family on earth. It didn’t make her happy. She wished her parents understood. She tried to explain it to them. Whether they understood or not, Kim wasn’t

about to lose her heavenly family. She knew the love of the Father who created her, the Brother who died for her, and the Spirit who gave her peace despite the insults and guilt trips.

Her new family was worth the trouble with the old family. Kim only hoped that one day, her old family could be part of her new family too.

“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” Luke 12:49-53

Prayer: *Lord, you are the best family I’ve ever had. Thanks for your unconditional love. May everyone in my family on earth be part of my family in heaven. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

Phone: [630-947-4317](tel:630-947-4317) - revagumm@hotmail.com