

A. Introduction

1. How Many Brothers?

2. The Text: <sup>11</sup> For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, <sup>12</sup> saying, "I will proclaim Your name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise." <sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in Him." And again, "Behold, I and the children whom God has given me."

B. Sanctifier of the Sanctified..... 2:11a

1. Jesus Our Sanctifier

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3. Due to Our Common Nature

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<sup>A</sup> Colossians 1:22, Revelation 12:10

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D. Conclusion

1. What Is Being Brothers? <sup>E</sup>

2. What Do Brothers Do <sup>F</sup>

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<sup>B</sup> Psalm 22:1, 22

<sup>C</sup> Isaiah 8:11-17

<sup>D</sup> Isaiah 7:3; 8:3, 18

<sup>E</sup> Mark 3:20-21, 31-33

<sup>F</sup> Mark 3:34-35, Luke 6:46

A. Introduction

1. How Many Brothers? —{2}.

- a. the small boy was asked, 'How many brothers do you have?'
- b. the child gave a number, but then added, 'and one in heaven.'
- c. 'Oh no,' his mother broke in, 'you have no brother in heaven!'
- d. 'Yes, I do,' the boy argued, 'Didn't you tell me that God is my Father and that Jesus is the Son of God? Then He must be my Brother in heaven.'
- e. the truth that boy knew is what we learn from our text today

2. The Text – '11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying, "I will proclaim Your name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise." 13 And again, "I will put my trust in Him." And again, "Behold, I and the children whom God has given me."' (Hebrews 2:11-13)

B. Sanctifier of the Sanctified. . . . . 2:11a

1. Jesus our Sanctifier – 'For both He who sanctifies ...'

- a. sanctification of the believer – making him or her holy, setting him or her apart as God's child, purifying them from sin – is generally the special work of God the Holy Spirit, a progressive work that begins at conversion and continues through the lifetime of the Christian
- b. 'sanctification is glory begun, and glory is sanctification completed' —{3}.
- c. but here, and elsewhere in Hebrews, God the Son in the Person of Jesus Christ, effected our sanctification by taking all of our sin – past, present and future – onto Himself when He went to Calvary
- d. thus it is that whether we speak of how a person can be saved, or of what that salvation involves, it is true that all roads lead to Calvary

2. Sanctified by Jesus' Death – '... and those who are sanctified ...'

- a. "yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him

holy and blameless and beyond reproach—” (Colossians 1:22 NAS95)

- b. we usually think of being justified by Christ – that through Him I am made ‘just as if I’d never sinned.’  
– as making us presentable to God
- c. but the sanctification which we have just seen as being brought about by Jesus, our Sanctifier, is just as important in presenting us to God
  - (A) for as well as making us holy – set apart as God’s own children
  - (B) it also has dealt with the stain of sin, making us ‘blameless and beyond reproach’ so that Satan, the accuser of the brethren, has no case against us when we approach our Father in heaven

3. Due to Our Common Nature – ‘... are all from one Father;’

- a. you will notice that the word, ‘Father,’ is shown in italics, meaning it has been supplied by the translators to give sense to the English
- b. and even so, it is strongly debated whether this should be capitalised, meaning God, or not, so as to mean Adam
- c. the context and argument in this chapter, would seem to mean the latter and that what is intended is that both Jesus, the Sanctifier, and Christians, those who are sanctified, are all from one race or family
- d. that is, the reason that Jesus could be our sin-Bearer, making us holy, is that He was a human being, He is the last Adam, giving us life

C. Made Jesus’ Brethren . . . . . 2:11b-13

- 1. At Jesus’ Initiative – ‘... for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ...’ (2:11b)
  - a. through the cross, through His laying down of His own life, Jesus has brought the Christian into a ‘brotherly’ relationship with Himself, whereby the believer can take part in Jesus’ family as God’s child
  - b. while sometimes we, as well as the hymns we sing, refer to Jesus as our Brother – sometimes, our Elder Brother – reflects this truth
  - c. I personally feel that it behooves us, in respect and reverence for Him, to rather state the truth that it He who graciously calls us brethren
- 2. By His Messianic Work – ‘saying, “I will proclaim Your name to my brethren, in the midst of the

congregation I will sing Your praise.” (2:12)

- a. if I were to quote ‘The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay’, all of you would recognise it as from the carol which begins with the words, ‘Away in a manger ...’ because we remember the words of hymns
- b. the hymn – and prayer – book of the early Christians for whom Hebrews was written was the OT book of Psalms
- c. so when this verse was quoted, it would immediately be recognised as part of that Psalm which in Hebrew begins, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani’
- d. ‘My God, My God, why have you forsaken men?’ Psalm 22:1
- e. that is a Messianic Psalm, prophesying about Jesus Christ
- f. in a few moments we will read the first part of that Psalm which tell of the sufferings of Christ in preparing our hearts for the Lord’s Table
- g. but the verse quoted here in Hebrews is from the last part of that Psalm, which tells of Christ’s eventual victory over sin and death
- h. to His disciples – now after His resurrection named brothers – Jesus proclaims and praises the Name of God for that victory

3. Jesus: Model of Faith – ‘And again, “I will put my trust in him.”’ (2:13a)

- a. this quotation is taken directly from the Greek of Isaiah 8:17
- b. the context is that Isaiah was instructed to disassociate himself from the attitude and thinking of the people of Judah
- c. but rather he was to speak out clearly God’s message without fear
- d. and even though God hides His face from His people Jacob – which may be a reference to the words of Psalm 22 – yet Isaiah says ‘I will even look eagerly for Him’ or, prophetically, ‘I will put my trust in him.’
- e. Jesus, the Just and Righteous One, lived His life upon this earth in the same fashion as we His brothers are to do: ‘The just shall live by faith.’

4. Jesus: Model of Witness – ‘And again, “Behold, I and the children whom God has given me.”’ (2:13b)

- a. this quotation is taken from the next verse, Isaiah 8:18
- b. that verse continues – as the Jewish readers of this would remember – with these words ‘... are for signs

and wonders in Israel ...'

- (A) the name, 'Isaiah,' means 'Salvation is of Yahweh'
  - (B) God named one son, 'Maher-shalal-hash-baz' meaning 'swift is the booty, speedy is the prey' – a witness to coming punishment
  - (C) the other's name, 'Shearjashub' means 'a remnant shall return'
  - (D) so Isaiah and his sons were witnesses to God's message
- c. the name, 'Jesus' means 'salvation' – that is the message that God has spoken in these last days through His Son
- (A) and we, who are His children – who are to take His character upon ourselves – have been given a name ... 'Christian'
  - (B) that we claim to be followers of Jesus – Jesus' family
  - (C) that we should also be like Him – bearing salvation's message
- d. C.S. Lewis says it this way -- that the "Son of God became a man so that men could become sons of God." –{4}.

#### D. Conclusion

##### 1. What Is Being Brothers?

- a. In Mark 3, Jesus had just formally chosen His 12 disciples, when we read these words
- b. '20 And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. 21 When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses."' (Mark 3:20-21)
- c. from what follows, we gather 'His own people' means, 'His family'
- d. then there follows a discussion He had with the scribes from Jerusalem
- e. after which we read, '31 Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. 32 A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." 33 Answering them, He said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?"' (Mark 3:31-33)
- f. in a culture where family was everything, what a question!
- g. but Jesus had a point to make: family is as family does

h. mere blood ties do not necessarily create a brother relationship

## 2. What Do Brothers Do?

- a. `34 Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers!  
35"For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.'" (Mark 3:34-35)
- b. there is a spiritual dimension to being one of Jesus' brothers
- c. this involves not merely hearing – perhaps even agreeing – with the message of God's will that Jesus preached; but also doing that will
- d. Jesus asks you and me, even today, "'Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?'" (Luke 6:46)
- e. that is what is involved in your and my being part of Jesus' family

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ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version of 1769
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Some of the commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

Barnes –	<i>Notes on the New Testament, et alia</i> , by Rev Albert Barnes, Gall & Inglis, Edinburgh
BM –	<i>Biblical Museum</i> , Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870
EBC –	<i>The Expositor’s Bible Commentary</i> , © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, Michigan <i>Hebrews</i> , by Leon Morris
EGT –	<i>The Expositor’s Greek Testament</i> , Hodder & Stoughton <i>Hebrews</i> , by Marcus Dods
Gill –	<i>Exposition of the Old Testament, Exposition of the New Testament</i> , by John Gill, D.D.
Kerux –	The sermon & illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick at the web-site, <a href="http://www.holwick.com">www.holwick.com</a> .
NICNT –	<i>The New International Commentary on the New Testament</i> <i>The Epistle to the Hebrew</i> , by F. F. Bruce
RWP –	<i>Robertson’s Word Pictures of the New Testament</i> , by Dr. A. T. Robertson
TYN –	<i>The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries</i> <i>Hebrews</i> , by Donald Guthrie

2. From *Fredericksburg Bible Illustrator Supplements* – Kerux illustrations #20907

3. NICNT, *in loc*.

4. Quoted by Rev. Dave Wilkinson in his message, ‘*A Brother’s Love,*’ – Kerux sermons #693