

THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING IN GOD'S FAMILY

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him."

1 John 3:1

REFLECTION

Because my father was a pastoral staff within the Methodist Church, there were many people within the Methodist Church who knew him. So, when friends or acquaintances of my father met me and found out that I am his son, they were friendlier to me by association. Since they knew my father, they felt like they also knew me. Thanks to this familial connection with my father, I have been able to benefit socially from my relationship with him. However, those who are not acquainted with my father may not be predisposed to think well of me at our first meeting.

In the same way, those who have a personal encounter and relationship with God the Father will, by extension, feel a familial connection with other brothers and sisters in Christ. On the other hand, those who are not in the family of God, who do not know God as their Heavenly Father, will not be able to connect with us in a similar manner.

Such is the privilege of being a part of God's spiritual family. We not only have a personal relationship with God but also with other Christians who call Him Father. For it is by His great love that He has adopted us to be His children so that we can not only enjoy fellowship with God but also with one another.

Even on days when we feel distant from God, let us remember the fact that we are His children and that we can draw close to Him at all times. When we cry out to God in prayer, He listens to us. As a loving Father, the Lord will answer us and provide for our needs.

And as children of the Most High God, let us learn to cultivate a deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father and a closer relationship with our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, You are our loving Heavenly Father, who called us Your children! Teach us to live as Your children by cultivating a deeper personal relationship with You and with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Help us not take our relationship with You for granted and see it as a privilege to be a part of Your family. As Your children, give us the faith to believe that You are always ready to give us good gifts and that You will answer us when we cry out to You. Fill our hearts with Your compassion to love and care for Your

people. May we cherish this gift of fellowship that we have with one another. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Let us thank God for giving us the privilege to be a part of His family. We pray that we will learn to cultivate a deeper relationship with Him and with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Let us pray for the Lord's intervention to bring the Covid-19 pandemic to an end. We also pray that the rise in Omicron cases in Singapore will not get so seriously that it results in the tightening of restrictions again.
- Let us pray for the needs of the BRMC community. We pray for God to bring complete healing to those who are sick in body, mind and spirit. We pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to restore them to wholeness. We pray also for the Lord to strengthen and comfort those who are struggling with loneliness or despair. May He make His presence known to them and help them experience Christ's love in a very real and personal way.
- Let us pray for the countries of the world that are experiencing extreme weather conditions. We pray for God to protect the lives and livelihoods of those who have been badly affected by floods and droughts. We also pray for the Lord to provide for the daily needs of those who have lost their homes and their crops. As well as bring comfort to families that have lost loved ones to these natural disasters and heal those who have been critically wounded.

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household."

Ephesians 2:19

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

Email: wecare@brmc.org.sg

Contact: 6592 4011