

Mark 3:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Analysis

Jesus redefines family: 'Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.' This isn't disrespect for Mary and siblings (3:31-32) but declaration that spiritual family supersedes biological. The criterion for relationship is doing 'the will of God'—not mere profession but obedient faith. John's Gospel explains God's will is believing in Christ (John 6:40). Faith evidences itself through obedience (James 2:17). This creates radical new community transcending natural kinship, ethnicity, and social class. Reformed theology sees here the doctrine of the church as covenant family, united by Spirit-wrought faith, more fundamental than earthly ties. Jesus' household consists of those who hear God's word and do it (Luke 8:21). This warns against presuming salvation through Christian heritage while assuring believers of intimate relationship with Christ.

Historical Context

Jesus' mother and brothers sought Him, possibly to restrain Him because some thought He was 'beside himself' (3:21). Family concern for reputation, fear of Roman or Jewish authorities, or misunderstanding His mission motivated their interference. In honor-shame culture, family ties were paramount—individual identity derived from family. Jesus' teaching that spiritual kinship transcends biological was revolutionary and offensive. It created conflict for early disciples: following Christ might mean family rejection (Matthew 10:34-37). Yet it also created new family—the church—where spiritual siblings support one another.

This passage encouraged Gentile converts and Jews excommunicated from families, assuring them of belonging in God's household.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Does your family identity in Christ take priority over biological or national identity?
2. How does being Christ's brother/sister change your understanding of church relationships?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	γὰρ	ἂν	ποιήσῃ	τὸ	θέλημα	τοῦ	θεοῦ	οὗτος
whosoever	For	G302	shall do	G3588	the will	G3588	of God	the same
G3739	G1063		G4160		G2307		G2316	G3778
ἀδελφός	μου	καὶ	ἀδελφὴ	μου	καὶ	μήτηρ	ἐστίν	
brother	my	and	sister	my	and	mother	is	
G80	G3450	G2532	G79	G3450	G2532	G3384	G2076	

Additional Cross-References

1 John 2:17 (References God): And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Matthew 7:21 (Parallel theme): Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

John 7:17 (References God): If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

