

# Jesus And "His" Brethren

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We look at the church today and see it in such a mess. Division, confusion, arguing, fights, worldliness, and a host of other things combine to assault the Lord's beloved church. In the words of a great song by G.J. Webb, "Tho' with a scornful wonder, we see her sore oppressed, Her doctrine rent asunder, by names and creeds distressed." And often the question is raised, "What's wrong with the church?"

But at the same time, a person gets tired after a while of hearing her jeered at and trampled over. The seemingly never-ending assaults at some point have to become wearisome. That's especially true when the Lord looks at her and says He is not ashamed of her. Christians shouldn't be ashamed either.

The Hebrew writer insisted, "For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers" (Heb. 2:11.) Jesus is not ashamed to call His people "brothers." What an amazing statement! Perhaps this is a case where we should take some time just to appreciate what the Hebrew writer said. Sometimes we over-analyze things to the point we lose the joy a passage should bring. Sometimes we should just let the emotion of a verse move us. And this one certainly does.

But some claims are so wonderful we find ourselves wondering if they could really be true. Isn't the Hebrew writer's claim a little like that? Jesus, who makes people holy, and the people He makes holy have one source— God. Because of that, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

Who is it that is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters? No less than the son of God. The One who created all things (John 1:1-3). The One who is preeminent in all things. The One that God the Father is well pleased to call His Son (Matt. 17:5.) The one so full of love that He offered Himself on the cross on our behalf. Jesus is Lord over life and death. He is Lord over all powers upon the earth and full of glory and majesty. And this is the one that puts His arms around us and calls us brothers and sisters.

If we are honest with ourselves, we would confess that there have been times in our lives when we have not lived up to this. Sin has brought us low and made us ashamed. I must confess personally that there have been times in my life when I have been so ashamed of myself. I'll also bet that everyone has felt that way at times. How could we not feel this way? Consider all that the loving Son of God is in relation to us, but we often fail to think about it and that's when we fail. How often we let Jesus down.

But Jesus knows us in those times. He knows everything we do wrong. He knows every bad feeling we experience. Those are the times He knocks at the door of our heart, asking to come in and help. Think about the beautiful picture painted of Jesus in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me." And that was said to brethren in Laodicea who had been half-hearted and indifferent toward Him. They were making The Lord sick, but He was still knocking.

That's the great lesson here. Jesus reminds us in those times when we have failed and are ashamed that He overcame the world and only through Him will we be able to. Jesus became one of us and has never regretted it. Jesus makes us holy and is glad to do it. Remember, the next time you have trouble forgiving yourself that Jesus already knows the problem and is not ashamed to call you a brother or sister. Let that joy and knowledge fill your heart.