

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS AS THE ONE WHO OVERCOMES THE WORLD

JOHN 16: 16-33 | ELDER GILBERT BAYANG

"Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." - John 16:32-33

In Chapter 16, the Lord comforted the disciples with the promise to send the Helper as their advocate. The Holy Spirit played an important role in the disciples' lives as He guided them in all truth (v. 13). But, in order to send the 'Helper,' Jesus needed to depart from this world.

In today's sermon, Jesus encouraged His disciples as He gave them three assurances amidst the sorrow they began to experience upon His departure. He assured them that as they remained in Him, their grief would turn into joy - the kind of joy no

one could take away and a joy that is full. Jesus encouraged them that though they would be sorrowful because He would die, the Lord assured the disciples that they would rejoice as He would see them again. Jesus spoke to them about the truth that He would be raised from death as He conquers the world completely. The Lord assured the disciples of His presence and joy amidst their sorrow (vv. 16-22).

Jesus also encouraged and at the same time assured the disciples that as they encountered challenges regarding their faith, their petitions would be heard and answered by the Father. Answers to prayer are premised on the alignment to the will of God that is good and that would allow them to experience joy that is full despite their challenges. In this section, the Lord promised the disciples that He would hear and answer their prayers (vv. 23-24).

Jesus spoke to the disciples about His return to the Father, who sent Him. With confidence, the disciples now 'believed' in Him and trusted in His words. Jesus looked forward to the victory that His death and resurrection would accomplish for the disciples and those who will believe as a result of their witness that Jesus has overcome the world's system of deception and its protracted deviance from the righteousness of the Lord. This same power is part of the inheritance of each believer of Christ. Truly, the power of Jesus is able to overcome tribulations (vv. 25-33).

Knowing that Jesus has overcome the world, we can all be assured that as believers of Jesus Christ, we can have joy, peace and courage as we all face the sorrows and tribulations of this world.✱

FAMILY OF TWO: EMBRACING GOD'S DESIGN

T. MIR MONROY

Through marriage, husband and wife become one in the eyes of God—bound by love, faith and purpose. However, many newlyweds, especially those without children, may feel hesitant to view themselves as a "family." In a world that often defines family by numbers or the presence of children, a family of two may seem incomplete. Yet, this perspective misses the beauty and strength of the family as designed by God. I, myself, was likewise challenged by that same perspective.

I believe that a married couple, even without children, is indeed a family. Genesis 2:24 says, *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."* This union is both physical and spiritual. Husband and wife are no longer two individuals, but one—a complete family rooted in their commitment to each other and to God.

Being a family isn't about the number of people, but about the love, relationship, and commitment shared. It is also not about how the world views

it, but it should be anchored on how God designed it. Nowadays, more and more families end up being broken, same as the number of married couples who desire and long to have a child/children of their own. But due to the circumstances in life that are beyond their control, are they not considered families at all?

For those who feel incomplete as a "family of two" abandoned by a spouse, struggling with childlessness, remember that God's design is not based on numbers but on the love and purpose He has for you. In your current season, you have the unique opportunity to strengthen the bond with one another, grow in faith, and lay or re-establish a solid foundation for the future.

The same holds true to the single parent - you, too, are a family. Society may highlight two-parent homes, but God sees the love, strength and sacrifice you bring. A family is defined by the love that binds its members together, not by traditional structures. Psalm 68:5 reminds us, *"Father of the fatherless and protector*

of widows is God in his holy habitation." Whether you're a mother and son or a father and daughter, your bond is precious in God's sight, and He walks with you through every challenge.

Also, for those who come from broken families or as you navigate through a separation, take heart. God's love extends to you, even in the midst of brokenness. Psalm 147:3 assures us, *"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."* Though family life may look different from what you envisioned, God can bring healing, strength and renewal. Your family is not defined by the past but by the love that still exists.

Whether newly married, a single parent or healing from brokenness, a family of two (or more for some) is complete in God's eyes. As you grow in love and faith, your family becomes a testimony of His grace. Trust that His perfect plan makes your family whole, strong and beautiful in its own way.✱

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