

Together In Christ We Can Exodus 6:14-27

Genealogies in Scripture must be read in the light of both Gen. 1 and Gen. 3. In Gen. 1:26-28, we're reminded that it has always been God's purpose for humanity to multiply and fill the earth. This was the very reason God made the world: so that it might be filled with and ruled by his greatest creation, humanity, made in his own image. The family tree of humanity is, therefore, of immense importance. And in Gen. 3:15, we're reminded that God's redeeming grace towards lost humanity comes through humanity itself. It is the seed of the woman, though she fell into sin, who will overcome the enemy and bring redemption. Thus, genealogies that trace this promised child hold great significance.

Both of these themes converge in the genealogy found in Ex. 6. Here we see a human family tree, men and women made in God's image, each with their own stories, yet collectively fulfilling God's purpose to fill the earth. More than that, this is the family tree of the promised seed: the Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. It begins with Reuben, Simeon, and Levi (v14-16), the three older brothers of Judah, from whom Christ would come. In v23, we meet Aaron's wife, Elisheba (or Elizabeth), who is from the tribe of Judah. As Hamilton notes, "Both her father and her brother are links in the line from Judah, to David, to Jesus (Mt. 1:2-6)... That means that the Levitical priest Aaron is married to a Judahite, and that the second generation of high priests comes from mixed tribal groups, Levitical and Judahite."

We stand on the other side of this family tree. We are human beings, made in the image of God, descended from Adam and Eve, living proof of God's faithfulness to fill the earth. And yet, we are all too aware of our imperfections. That's why it is so wonderful to know that we belong also to the family tree of the new humanity, those who are in Christ: regenerated, conformed to his likeness, liberated by his redeeming grace, and set free to triumph over sin in him. It is because we are human beings, who have been re-born in Christ, identified with him and liberated by him, that we can accomplish great things. That's the message of this genealogy for us today: *together, in Christ, we can!*

Can you see how vital it is that we belong to *both* family trees. We need to be both of humanity and of the *new* humanity in Christ. We need to bear the image of God and have that image renewed in Christ. Without Christ's redemption, we are condemned in Adam, powerless to defeat sin and destined only for discouragement. All that follows is only for those who belong to *both* family trees.

1) Together in Christ We Can Be Fruitful

Notice the mothers listed in v20, 23, 25. Even when not named, we know that without them, no "sons" could exist. This takes us back to Gen. 3:15. Physically, women bear children, but spiritually, as new covenant believers, we are all called to be spiritual mothers—nurturing those granted new birth in Christ.

We rejoice in motherhood—not as the culture portrays it, diminished and sidelined—but as Scripture paints it: a sacred privilege, celebrated in passages like Ps. 127. And just as physical motherhood is a blessing, so too is the spiritual motherhood of the church—the "mother" of the new humanity, as seen in Rev. 12:1-3. In this second, spiritual family, we are all called to bear the fruit of new life. In Christ, we can be fruitful—in our homes, our churches, our workplaces, and our communities—carrying forth the gospel, which alone has the power to regenerate.

To those who desire physical children but have not received that gift: your desire is good, but do not let it consume you. Christ was never married, never had physical children, yet he is the most fruitful person who has ever lived. You, too, can bear much spiritual fruit by serving others in love and proclaiming Christ.

2) Together in Christ We Can Be Humble

At the centre of this genealogy are Moses and Aaron. We learn that their father Amram married his aunt—a union later forbidden by the law of Moses! Imagine Moses, writing down Leviticus, knowing he himself was the product of what would be outlawed. How humbling that must have been!

God often calls those deemed unworthy. Conspicuous inadequacy, in fact, is a requirement (2 Cor. 4:7; 1 Cor. 1:26–31). True humility isn't natural quietness—it's the deep conviction that "I am a sinner and nothing at all, but Jesus Christ is my all in all." This kind of humility is only possible in Christ, for it requires strength, assurance, and courage born of the Spirit. Christ was the humblest man who ever lived, and his humility was the product of an inner strength, by the power of the Spirit, that no other man has ever attained. Meekness is not weakness, it is precisely the opposite! Moses and Aaron bore their flaws publicly. What's yours? Don't resist it—be thankful for it. God uses it to drive you to Christ's strength.

3) Together in Christ We Can Be Useful

This genealogy is packed with useful people: Moses the leader, Aaron the priest, and others like Gershon, Kohath, and Merari, each with specific roles in the Tabernacle's service. Their usefulness stemmed from one thing: getting on with it. Whether mundane or magnificent, terrifying or tedious—they did the work. Don't fret about your gifts or calling—just get on with the work before you! Scripture says we are all priests (1 Pet. 2:9-12), serving God in both church and world. It's less about talents, more about willingness. Christ served in poverty, obscurity, rejection—and through it all, he was faithful. Follow him. Don't strive to be someone else. Just serve—at home, work, church, with children, the elderly, in giving, praying. In Christ, you *will* be useful.

4) Together in Christ We Can Persevere

Not every name in this genealogy is commendable. Reuben was unstable and impure. Simeon and Levi were violent and deceptive. Nadab and Abihu died offering profane fire. Korah rebelled and was swallowed by the earth. These examples are warnings (1 Cor. 10:6-11). Where are you in danger of falling? Addiction? Neglect? Compromise? Let these failures stir you to persevere. In Christ, you can endure—because *he* endured. He persevered through betrayal, abandonment, and death. And we, as his family, will persevere with him.

5) Together in Christ We Can Be Zealous

The genealogy closes in hope. Phinehas acts in zeal to remove reproach. Aaron and Moses obey God and confront Pharaoh. They serve with conviction, even when others failed them. So too with Christ: his zeal for the Father's glory carried him to the cross. If we are in Christ, we can be zealous and we can keep on being zealous, because we are filled with his Spirit and empowered by his grace as we receive it through his word.

Together in Christ, we can be fruitful, humble, useful, persevering, and zealous. Be a part of *both* family trees—in Adam and in Christ—and together, *we can!*