

THE COLLECT

LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



1. What is the Church here called?
A. thy (God's) _____ (Ephesians 2:19)
2. How do we beseech God to keep His household?
A. in continual _____ (Ezekiel 36:27)
3. We ask God for protection against what?
A. all _____ (Isaiah 32:18)
4. In what do we pray the Church may be devoutly given to serve God?
A. in good _____ (Philippians 1:11)
5. To whose glory do we do this?
A. to the glory of God's _____ (John 15:8)

INTRODUCTION. **Read: Philippians 1:3-12**

Oftentimes the Epistle assigned for reading illuminates the Collect. What has today's Epistle to do with the Collect? It tells us how the members of God's household should feel to one another, what they should do for one another, how they should grow like their Father, and what they should do for Him, as the Collect says, may be "devoutly given to serve Thee in good works to the glory of Thy Name."

Let us then think about—

*The people God keeps;
The plan of God's keeping;
The purpose of His keeping.*



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I. THE PEOPLE GOD KEEPS.

1. **Thy Household**, i.e. a family. The Church at Philippi contained whole families or households (such as the jailer in Acts 16). Who is the head of a household? The father. And of what does it consist? Children. So God has a household of which He is the Head. What place do we occupy? That of children. It is a very happy household when the children wait on their parents and on each other. The service of children for their parents and each other should be the happiest and best of all, for it is the service of love.
2. **God's Household is His Church**. When did we enter the household of God? At our Baptism. And what did God make us then? His children. He is the loving father, and we the happy children.

II. THE PLAN OF GOD'S KEEPING.

1. **In continual godliness**. The word means God-likeness, and it refers to God's keeping us like a father. But we may also refer it not only to God's attitude toward us, but to our attitude towards God and each other, and so—
 - a. It means that as children in a family are like their parents, so we must be getting like God (Phil 1:9-10).
 - b. And also, that the children shall feel and act towards each other as God our Father does to us:
 - i) we should love one another (Phil 1:8-9)
 - ii) we should think of one another (v.7)
 - iii) we should pray for one another (v.4,9)
 - iv) we should help one another (v.5) and
 - v) we should forgive one another (St. Matthew 18:23-35)
2. **Thy protection**. It is a father's duty to watch over his family and keep them from harm. This is what God does for His household.

III. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S KEEPING.

1. **To keep us free** from all adversities
2. **To produce devotion to His Name**, for it is the love and care and keeping of the father which stirs up the children to help and love and care for each other
3. **Service** in good works
4. **God's glory**

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