



Family Likeness

While I was serving as a journeyman, a new daughter was born to my brother and sister-in-law. We were very close; I'd spent a summer living with them and working in the church my brother pastored. They wanted my new niece to know me. Since they couldn't introduce us, they introduced her to a picture of me instead, saying "That's Uncle Bobby." they told me she learned her lesson very well. Soon any and every picture had become an "uncle bobby." Grandmother's picture was an uncle bobby, a family portrait was an uncle bobby, her own baby picture was an uncle bobby. Whoops. Wrong lesson.

I wonder if sometimes we Christians haven't taken the wrong lesson from God's teaching about His own nature. God is in every way *giving*. He gave us a beautiful world. He gave each one of us life. He gave perfect instructions concerning how we are to live joyfully. he gives opportunity after opportunity to start over when we fail. He gives us His Word. He gave us His only Son, and thus forgiveness and peace and purpose. He gives us blessings we cannot find enough numbers to count. "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father.*" (James 1:17)

Since we are made in the "image of God," we ought to bear a striking family resemblance to the Father! we are to be giving, as He is giving. So why is it that so many of us Christians act as if our purpose is to *take*? We ask *from* God. We *take* blessings as if they are our due, and protest mightily if we think God isn't blessing us enough. Have we learned the wrong lesson?

In time, my niece learned the difference between a person and a picture. Now that she's grown, people can quickly see the family resemblance between us. Do we Christians bear a striking resemblance in our *giving* to the image of our Father God?



Pogy's
"IF IT ISN'T A
POGY IT'S A PITY"
SUBS

Copies Available Upon Request
503-538-1000
2855 East Hayes Street, Behind Yamhill Grill
Monday-Saturday, 10am-8pm . www.pogys.com