

WELCOME TO



LIBERTY
CHURCH

Introduction

As a communion of three persons, God is a relational being. He originates a personal relationship with us, and our high and holy calling is to respond to his loving initiatives.

- **By loving God completely, we discover who and whose we are as we come to see ourselves as God see us. In this way, we become secure enough to be others centered rather than self-centered, and this enables us to become givers rather than grabbers.**
- **Romans 8:29 gives us the most concise revelation of God's ultimate intention for those who have put their trust in him:**
²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Introduction

His purpose is nothing less than that we become “conformed to the image of his Son”.

This process of growing conformity to Christ was conceived before the foundation of the world. It is being realized as a divine human process in the present, and it will be fulfilled when we stand in the presence of his glory.

Jude 24 To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy

Introduction

Relational Spirituality – Three Lesson Series

October 23 - Loving God Completely

October 30 - Loving Ourselves Correctly

November 6 - Loving Others Compassionately

Loving God Completely

Knowing Him more clearly, Loving Him more dearly, and Following Him more nearly.

Lesson Objectives:

- **An enhanced appreciation for the greatness and glory of God**
- **A greater sense of the dilemma of our dignity and depravity**
- **A better grasp of God's causeless, measureless, and ceaseless love**

What is man, that you take thought of him?

The God of the Bible is infinite, personal, and triune.

Hebrews 10:20

²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

- This has removed the barrier for us to be able to have a personal relationship with our Lord

Because God loves us, he wants us to grow in an intimate relationship with him; this is the purpose for which we were created ---- to know, love, enjoy, and honor the triune Lord of all creation.

Our Greatness and Smallness

We are at once the grandeur and degradation of the created order; we bear the image of God, but we are ensnared in trespasses and sin.

We are capable of harnessing the forces of nature but are unable to control our tongue.

We are the most wonderful and creative beings on this planet but also the most violent, cruel, and contemptible of earth's inhabitants.

The Glory of God

Psalm 8 explores these twin themes, sandwiching them between expressions of the majesty of the Creator of all biological and spiritual life

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. ² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

The God that created these stars and calls them all by name

Isaiah 40:26 –

⁶ Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

God is awesome, his wisdom, beauty, power, and domination are beyond human comprehension. Yet, he wants a relationship with us!

Psalm 8: You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

God's Love for Us

Consider these truths about the love of God from Paul's epistle to the Romans. In the book of nature, God reveals his eternal power and divine nature

Romans 1: 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

And in the book of human conscience, he reveals our imperfection and guilt

Romans 2:14-16 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) 16 This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

But only in the book of scripture does God reveal his limitless love that can overcome our guilt and transform us into new creatures in Christ. God's loyal love for us is causeless (5:6); measureless (5:7-8), and ceaseless (5:9-11)

Romans 5:6-11 ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Loving God Completely

Listen to this prayer form St. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Thanks be to the, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us; for all the pains and insults which thou has borne for us; O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly; for thine own sake.

May We Know Thee More Clearly

Two essential ingredients – time and obedience.

The more we are impressed by Him the less we will be impressed by people, power, and things.

Love Thee More Dearly

To know God is to love him, because the more we grasp - not merely in our minds but also in our experience – who he is and what he has done for us, the more our hearts will respond in love and gratitude.

Follow Thee More Nearly

As we know and love God, we learn that we can trust his character, promises, and precepts.

Our great task in the spiritual life is to do his will, to love the things he loves, and to choose the things he sets before us for our good.

Next Week

Loving Ourselves Correctly

We can be defined either by our world or by our God. To love ourselves correctly is to see ourselves as God sees us. This involves a process of exposure to the truth of Scriptures with a view to understanding our new identity in Christ Jesus.

In this lesson we will look at an inventory of these truths in the form of a series of affirmations from Scripture.



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