

# Why Is It The Greatest Relationship?

Every person desires to have great relationships. A lot of time and effort is invested in starting and developing relationships with others. However, even the best of human relationships leave us still missing something. God has designed us to only be truly satisfied when we have a relationship with Him. A relationship with God is the greatest relationship we will ever have. Why is that true....?

## ◆ **Because He is the greatest**

1. God possesses attributes that are only true of Him. These attributes make Him the greatest Person you will ever know. Read the verses below and write out what the Bible teaches about Who God is:

Mark 10:27 –

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 –

Psalm 139:7-10 –

Deuteronomy 32:4 –

Malachi 3:6 –

Psalm 103:8 –

Revelation 15:4 –

Psalm 119:90 –

2. If you had a human friend like this, how would you relate to them?
3. Which of God's attributes brings you the most joy? Which would you like to learn more about?

## ◆ **Because He created us**

1. Like any creator, God has a purpose for us [His creation]. Read them and write what God's purpose is from each verse.

Psalm 86:9 –

Isaiah 43:7 –

2. When Jesus lived on the earth, He said He glorified God by accomplishing God's work for Him [John 17:4]. Jesus explained God's 2 part way we can accomplish God's purpose for us in John 17:25-26. How is it that we can, and Jesus did, glorify God?

John 17:25 –

John 17:26 –

3. What would be the benefits of living for this purpose?
4. What could keep you from living for this purpose?
5. Read Jeremiah 29:11-13 and Ephesians 2:10. What thoughts or feelings do you have about the fact that God has a plan for your life?

## ◆ **Because of His great sacrifice for us**

1. Read Romans 5:8. What does it mean that we were "still sinners" when Christ died for us? Do people normally make great sacrifices for their enemies?
2. Read John 15:13. Why is laying down your life the "greatest love" [i.e. the greatest relationship]? In what ways did Jesus lay down His life? Who are Jesus' friends [vs. 14]? How are we Jesus' friends?

In the next lesson we will learn how we can be Jesus' friends.

# How Do We Begin This Greatest Relationship?

In the first lesson we learned that:

1. There is no greater relationship in the world than a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
2. God's purpose for our relationship with Him is to two-fold:
  - to know God - have an intimate relationship with Him
  - to make God known - have an impact on others with Him

With these things being true, the logical question is "how can I begin this relationship"? Like you begin any relationship, you need to know some basic things concerning yourself and the other person involved. There are some important things about God and ourselves that we need to understand.

◆ **God created us for His glory**

1. Read Isaiah 43:6-7. Why is it hard for many people to acknowledge that God created them?
  
2. What does it mean that God created us for His glory?

◆ **It is the responsibility of every person to live for the glory of God.**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. How much of a person's activities are to be done for God's glory?
  
2. What are common motivations for most people actions?

◆ **Every person has failed to glorify God as they should.**

1. Read Romans 3:23. What is the significance of saying that "all" people have failed to glorify God as they should?
  
2. From the Bible, how would you define sin?
  
3. Some people ask about those who do not know about God. What does the Bible teach about this situation in Romans 1:20-21?

◆ **Because we have failed to glorify God, we are subject to eternal punishment by God.**

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9. Why do these people receive punishment [vs. 8]?
  
2. Why do so many people not want to believe in the "eternal punishment" that the Bible teaches?

◆ **Because of God's great mercy, God has provided a way for us to have a relationship with Him that includes forgiveness of our sins, an abundant life here and eternal life with Him.**

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:15. Why did Jesus need to "save sinners"? For additional insight, read Ephesians 2:1-10.
  
2. Read Romans 3:25-26. What 2 major character qualities of God's are mentioned in these verses? Why are both of those so important?

◆ **This relationship with God is available to those who repent and trust in Christ.**

1. Jesus began His earthly ministry by sharing this truth with individuals [John 3:16] and groups [Mark 1:14:15]. Give your own definition of these terms:

Repent

Believe

2. Read John 5:24. What does Jesus mean when he says the person who believes “has eternal life” [present tense]? What does Jesus mean that a person has left death and entered life? What kind of “life” is Jesus talking about here?

Write down briefly how and when you repented and trusted in Christ.

If there is one thing in life that you should be absolutely certain about, it is about your relationship with God. 1 John 5:11-13 says that we can know that we have a right relationship with Him. Do you have that assurance? In the next lesson, we will see what happens when a person repents and trusts in Christ.

## What Happens When You Enter This Relationship?

When you begin any relationship, some things always change. For example, when you start attending a new school, your schedule may change, you may have new friends, etc. When you get married, your name may change, your address may change, your identity changes. The same is true as we begin a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Many things that were true of us before have changed. It is essential that we understand these changes.

◆ **A New Identity**

Listed below are just a few of the many truths the Bible teaches concerning our new identity in Christ. Read the verse that is given and...

- write down what the Bible teaches is true about you as a follower of Christ
- write down what was true of you before you accepted Christ [usually the opposite of the new truth]

Verse	Truth about you as a follower of Christ	What was true before?
John 1:12		
John 15:5		
John 15:16		
Romans 5:1		
Romans 8:35-39		
1 Cor. 6:20		
1 Cor. 12:27		
Eph. 1:5		
Eph. 2:10		
Philipp. 3:20		
Col. 2:10		
2 Tim. 1:7		

These changes alone make our relationship with God through Christ the greatest relationship we will ever have. What changes have you seen in your life since you accepted Christ?

Which of the changes above is the most significant to you? Why?

# Who causes the changes?

In the last lesson, we studied the changes that take happen in your life when you become a Christian. All of these incredible changes take place because God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, comes to live in you when you accept Christ [Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:9]. It is important to clearly understand that it is God Who is accomplishing these changes in you and how this takes place.

1. Read these verses and learn what Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit's work in us.

John 14:16-17

John 14:25-26

John 16:7-11

John 16:12-13

John 16:14-15

Acts 1:8

2. Why can a disciple of Christ not live the abundant life Christ promised by his own efforts?

John 15:4-5

Romans 8:6-8

3. How can a disciple of Christ live the abundant life Christ promised?

Galatians 5:16-18

Ephesians 5:15-18

4. The key is for our hearts, minds, bodies, and lives to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. The Bible uses several analogies to describe what this is like and how it happens. Write what you learn from each passage:

Ephesians 5:18

John 7:37-39

John 15:4

Summarize what you learned about living a Spirit controlled life here:

- ◆ What are evidences that this new relationship has begun and is growing?

Read the verses below to see what the Bible says are tangible evidences that a person is a follower of Christ and growing in their relationship with Christ:

John 14:21

Galatians 5:22-23

1 Peter 2:2

1 John 3:10

1 John 4:7

Do you see these evidences in your life? In the next lesson, we will see how we can continue to grow in this greatest relationship of all.

# How your greatest relationship grows - Part 1

A characteristic of a great relationship is that it grows and develops continuously. A relationship where there is no growth is not a good relationship. In any relationship, you can help it to grow by:

- listening to the other person
- talking to the other person
- doing the things that the other person wants/enjoys

The same things are true in our relationship with God. This lesson will look at the first of these.

## **Listening to God**

We will get to know God best as we listen to Him speak to us. God primarily speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. The apostle Paul wrote in a letter to Timothy reminding him of this. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

- Verse 14 - why is it important to continue to grow in Christ?
- Verse 15 - what did Paul call the Bible? What benefit had the Bible already had in Timothy's life?
- Verse 16 - where did the Bible come from? What benefits will studying the Bible have in our lives?
- Verse 17 - what is the result of a person studying God's Word?

What is true about God's Word?

- Psalm 19:7-8
- Isaiah 40:8
- Isaiah 55:8-11
- Hebrews 4:12

In life and relationships, many people are looking for success. God tells us in Joshua 1:8 tells us 2 things that we are to do to grow in our relationship with Him and to be successful. They are:

- 1.
- 2.

As we God speaks to us from His Word and we listen to Him and obey, our relationship with Him will develop dramatically. From Joshua 1:8, how often should we be spending time listening to God?

On the back of this sheet, you will find a simple guide to help you spend time with God each day....developing your relationship with Him.

Take some time each day to spend with God to develop your relationship with Him. Below you will find some Bible verses for you to study each day of this next week. Taking one set of verses each day. Ask God to speak to you from His Word and then read the verses and ask:

- What is God teaching me from these verses?

- How does God want me to apply these verses to my life today?

1. 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

2. Romans 12:1-2

3. Galatians 2:20

4. John 14:21

5. Matthew 6:33-34

6. Luke 9:23-26

7. Matthew 4:19

After reading these verses and thinking about them, take a moment to tell God what you have learned and ask Him to help you live out those commitments that day.

## How your greatest relationship grows - Part 2

A characteristic of a great relationship is that it grows and develops continuously. A relationship where there is no growth is not a good relationship. In any relationship, you can help it to grow by:

- listening to the other person
- talking to the other person
- doing the things that the other person wants/enjoys

The same things are true in our relationship with God. This lesson will look at the second of these.

### Talking to God

We have the incredible privilege of being able to talk to the sovereign God of the world. Our relationship with God will grow more intimate as we talk with Him each day. In addition to developing intimacy with God, we will see God do incredible things in our lives as we talk to Him.

Examples of talking to God

Read some of the following passages and observe:

1. How did they pray?
2. What did they pray for?
3. What happened as a result?

Moses - Exodus 33:7-23

Elijah - 1 Kings 18:20-40

Jehoshaphat - 1 Chronicles 20:1-25

Jesus - John 11:32-45

Disciples - Acts 4:23-31

What does God promise to do as we talk to Him?

Psalms 145:17-19

Jeremiah 33:2-3

John 14:12-14

John 15:7-8,16

John 16:23-24

1 John 5:14-15

Our talking to God should include the following:

O - [Olhando] Looking to God and Who He is

R - [Recordando] Recounting what great things He has done for me

A - [Arrependendo] Repenting of our sins and asking forgiveness

R - [Requerendo] Making our requests of God

Below you will find a simple guide to help you spend time with God each day....developing your relationship with Him.

Take some time each day to spend with God to develop your relationship with Him. Below you will find some Bible verses for you to study each day of this next week. Taking one set of verses each day, ask God to speak to you from His Word and then read the verses and ask:

- What is God teaching me from these verses?

- How does God want me to apply these verses to my life today?

1. Phillipians 4:6-7

2. Isaiah 41:10

3. Isaiah 26:3-4

4. 1 Peter 5:5-7

5. Romans 8:1-2

6. Galatians 5:16-18

7. Galatians 5:22-23

After reading these verses and thinking about them, take a moment to tell God what you have learned and ask Him to help you live out those commitments that day.

Also, take a few moments to talk to God using the O-R-A-R outline on the other side.

## How your greatest relationship grows - Part 3

A characteristic of a great relationship is that it grows and develops continuously. A relationship where there is no growth is not a good relationship. In any relationship, you can help it to grow by:

- listening to the other person
- talking to the other person
- doing the things that the other person wants/enjoys

The same things are true in our relationship with God. This lesson will look at the last of these.

### **Doing the Things that God Wants - Obeying Him**

When another person really loves us, we enjoy doing the things that this person wants us to do [examples: parents, boyfriend, girlfriend, etc]. God's incredible love for us is one of our primary motivations for obeying Him. Another motivation is God's complete authority in our lives. He created us and therefore has authority in our lives. Our relationship with God grows as we obey Him.

### **What Did Jesus Say about Obeying God?**

Read John 14:21. What does our obeying God show about us?

What does Jesus promise for those who obey Him?

What does that mean?

### **What Example Did Jesus Give Us in Obeying God?**

Read Philippians 2:5-8.

- Vs. 6-7: Did Jesus obey the Father because He was less important than the Father?
- Vs. 7: What character quality helped Jesus to obey?
- Vs. 8: To what extent was Jesus willing to obey and did obey?

What do these verses teach about obeying God?

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 –

Acts 5:27-32 –

Romans 6:15-18 –

2 Corinthians 10:5 –

1 Peter 1:22-23 -

Is it possible to obey God in your own strength? How is it possible to do what God wants us to do?

Read Philippians 2:12-13.

- When are we to obey?
- With what attitudes are we to obey?
- In whose strength are we to obey?
- Where do we get the desire and strength to obey?

Take some time each day to spend with God to develop your relationship with Him. Below you will find some Bible verses for you to study each day of this next week. Taking one set of verses each day, ask God to speak to you from His Word and then read the verses and ask:

- What is God teaching me from these verses?
- How does God want me to apply these verses to my life today?

1. Phillipians 1:1-5
2. Phillipians 1:6-8
3. Phillipians 1:9-11
4. Phillipians 1:12-17
5. Phillipians 1:18-22
6. Phillipians 1:23-26
7. Phillipians 1:27-30

After reading these verses and thinking about them, take a moment to tell God what you have learned and ask Him to help you live out those commitments that day.

Also, take a few moments to talk to God using the O-R-A-R outline on the other side. Commit to God that today you will obey what He has showed you from His Word.