

A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS ESTABLISHED ON FAITH NOT PASSION

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.”

~ Romans 10:1-2

1. Making it Personal

- a. This will be a deep sensitive root for those taught a personal relationship gospel
- b. People knew about him in church, but did not know him personally.
- c. The change from fundamental to evangelical - relationships over doctrine
- d. Get people to relate, make God relevant to relationship (self) centered culture
- e. Lesson plans became read a verse, make a point, tell a story, make it personal.
- f. John 3:16 – put your name in there! Make it personal!
- g. Having a “personal relationship with Jesus” is preacher talk, not Bible.
 - i. *“God is personal; he wants to have a relationship with you!”*

2. Defined by Passion

- a. Relationship teaching now emphasizes passion, desire, love and commitment
- b. Personal relationship is loving Jesus not the church group, or a dusty book.
- c. W/o doctrine; now they seek out the relationship experience - John 13:35
- d. The personal relationship needs to have all the sensory experiences
- e. Modern manifestations: *Crazy love, Radical, Not a fan, Passion, Jesus Culture*
- f. If our personal relationship with God is not collective, and it is not tied to doctrine, but to emotions, then whatever we feel personally must be God.
- g. The problem: Replacing faith for feeling, doctrine for passion, Christ for commitment

3. Our Relationship with God

- a. Our relationship is not intimate in the carnal sense – 1 Cor 2:10-13
- b. Life in Christ is not a pitter patter of your heart candlelight dinner romance.
- c. We are members of his body – we cannot get any “closer” – Eph 5:30-32
- d. We need more reverence for the Head, and not “relationship” – Eph 5:33
- e. We have a relationship of obedience – Eph 5:23-24, Rom 6:17-18
- f. Our old man, the carnal mind, is now dead – Rom 6:6, Rom 8:7-8
- g. The Spirit is our seal; the Spirit speaks through the Bible – Eph 1:13, 6:17
- h. We are absent from the Lord, but he is in us – 1 Cor 3:16, 2 Cor 5:6-8
- i. You will not feel a doctrinal relationship, positional truth, identity change
- j. We are warriors, soldiers, ambassadors, saints – 2 Tim 2:4, 2 Cor 5:9
- k. We have a working relationship as ambassadors – 2 Cor 5:19-20
- l. We have a union with the Lord Jesus Christ, based on his saving cross work
- m. Our relationship to him is defined by our faith, not by our passion.