

A Personal Relationship with God

The things a person is doing for his or her occupation has Almost nothing to do with their relationship with God.

Exodus 34:14

For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

God told the Israelites not to join in religious rites with the sinful people around them, but to give their absolute loyalty and exclusive devotion to him. Pagan worship simply cannot be mixed with the worship of the holy God.

As Jesus pointed out, "No one can serve two masters.... You cannot serve both God and money" <u>Luke 16:13</u>

God love you and offers a wonderful plan for your life. He gave his only son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

Our sins have separated us from God.

Jesus died for us to know God.

We can know God through faith and can receive him now.

We are given the right to become the children of God.

John 1:10-13

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Although Christ created the world, the people he created didn't recognize him (1:10). Even the people chosen by God to prepare the rest of the world for the Messiah rejected him (1:11), although the entire Old Testament pointed to his coming.

All who welcome Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives are reborn spiritually, receiving new life from God. Through faith in Christ, this new birth changes us from the inside out—rearranging our attitudes, desires, and motives.

Being born makes you physically alive and places you in your parents' family (1:13). Being born of God makes you spiritually alive and puts you in God's family (1:12).

Have you asked Christ to make you a new person? This fresh start in life is available to all who believe in Christ.

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.

Romans 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

While we were still sinners— these are amazing words. God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, not because we were good enough, but just because he loved us. Whenever you feel uncertain about God's love for you, remember that he loved you even before you turned to him.

God's plan is to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

We're all encouraged by a leader who stirs us to move ahead, someone who believes we can do the task he has given and who will be with us all the way. God is that kind of leader. He knows the future, and his plans for us are good and full of hope. As long as God, who knows the future, provides our agenda and goes with us as we fulfill his mission, we can have boundless hope.

This does not mean that we will be spared pain, suffering, or hardship, but that God will see us through to a glorious conclusion.

To please God, we must have faith.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Faith is simply believing that God will do what he said he would do.

Believing that God exists is only the beginning; even the demons believe that much (James 2:19, 20).

God will not settle for mere acknowledgment of his existence. He wants your faith that leads to a personal, dynamic relationship.

Those who look on Christ shall have eternal life.

John 6:40

For this is the will of my Father that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

On Getting Along With People

The SIX most important words: "I admit I made a mistake."

The FIVE most important words: "You did a good job."

The FOUR most important words: "What do you think?"

The THREE most important words: "After you please."

The TWO most important words: "Thank you."

The ONE most important word: "We"

The LEAST important word: "I"

Source Unknown.

Ten Commandments of Human Relations

- 1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
- 2. Smile at people. It takes seventy-two muscles to frown, only fourteen to smile.
- 3. Call people by name. Music to anyone's ears is the sound of his/her own name.
- 4. Be friendly and helpful.
- 5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is genuinely a pleasure, and if it isn't, learn to make it so.
- 6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like almost everybody if you try.
- 7. Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism.
- 8. Be considerate with the feelings of others. There are usually three sides to a controversy: yours, the other fellow's, and the right one.
- 9. Be alert to serve. What counts most in life is what we do for others.
- 10. Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience, and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded manifold through life.

Adapted from the Bible Tract Bulletin.

Our Relationship with God will enhance our relationship with others.

If we confess our sins, we will be forgiven.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The only way to God is through Christ.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This is one of the most basic and important passages in Scripture. How can we know the way to God? Only through Jesus. Jesus is the way because he is both God and man.

By uniting our lives with the life of Christ, we are united with God. Trust Jesus to take you to the Father, and all the benefits of being God's child will be yours.

Take hold of eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:12-16

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings

and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.

To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

God gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6-10

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Verses of humility Spoken by the Apostle Paul.

I am the least of the apostles. 1 Corinthians 15:9

I am the very least of all the saints. Ephesians 3:8

I am the foremost of sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

When we have a real relationship with God through Christ, life gets exciting because He stirs up with a passion inside us to love people.

We don't have to struggle to do the things he calls us to do because it just happens naturally.

Wakefield tells the story of the famous inventor Samuel Morse who was once asked if he ever encountered situations where he didn't know what to do. Morse responded, "More than once, and whenever I could not see my way clearly, I knelt down and prayed to God for light and understanding."

Morse received many honors from his invention of the telegraph but felt undeserving: "I have made a valuable application of electricity not because I was superior to other men but solely because God, who meant it for mankind, must reveal it to someone and He was pleased to reveal it to me."

Tim Hansel, Eating Problems for Breakfast, Word Publishing, 1988, pp. 33-34.

Christ is the vine, we are the branches.

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Because Jesus Christ is Lord and Master, he should call us servants; instead, he calls us friends. How comforting and reassuring to be chosen as Christ's friends! Because he is Lord and Master, we owe him our unqualified obedience, but most of all, Jesus asks us to obey him because we love him.

The vine is the source and sustenance of life for the branches and the branches must abide in the vine to life and bear fruit.

Jesus of course is the fine and the branches are people.

How do we bear fruit for the Lord.

- 1. A Christlike character
- 2. A life characterized by good works.

- 3. A faithful witness
- 4. A pair of lips to praise God
- 5. A generous giving of one's means.

Cleanse your hands and purify your heart.

James 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Hebrews 9:22

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

There is no greater symbol of life than blood; blood keeps us alive. Jesus shed his blood—gave his life—for our sins so that we wouldn't have to experience spiritual death, eternal separation from God. Jesus is the source of life, not death. He gave his own life to pay our penalty for us so that we might live. After shedding his blood for us, Christ rose from the grave and proclaimed victory over sin and death.

Never grow weary for in due time, you will reap.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

0 Holy Bible: Living Bible Translation

1 New American Standard Bible

2

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print