

RELATIONSHIPS

Series: "Relationships"
Message: "Getting Personal With God"
Text: Matthew 22:34-40
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Life's Most Important Relationship

"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"
Romans 8:15, TNIV

What Does it Take to Have a Great "Relationship" With God?

1. Don't try to put God first on your list; put Him in the middle of everything

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
Colossians 3:17, TNIV

2. Find out what works for you

"For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by all her children."
Luke 7:33-35, TNIV

Some common mistakes to avoid...

- Projecting your gifts onto others
- Making a tool a rule
- Rejecting the "House Rules"
- Confusing "I feel good" for being close to God

3. Beware of substituting empty rituals for a genuine relationship

"To obey is better than sacrifice..."
1 Samuel 15:22, TNIV

“Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ‘Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!’? These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.”

Colossians 2:20-23, TNIV

“If I speak in human or angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, TNIV

4. Expect to go through seasons and stages. Every relationship does.