

How do I Develop a Relationship with God?

VI. Our Fundamental Relationship



“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”
– James 4:8



The Depth of Relationships



- Foreign
- **Familiar**
- **Fellowship**
- Friendship
- Family
- Fundamental



Tuesday night:

Qualities that do not require a very deep and connected relationship



The Depth of Relationships



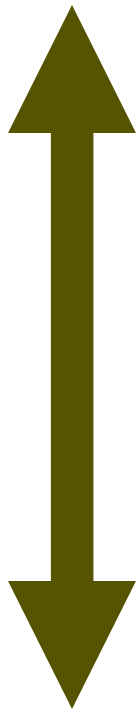
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Last lesson:

Qualities of personal relationships that are deeper



The Depth of Relationships



- Foreign
- Familiar
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- **Fundamental**

This Lesson:

Unique qualities of our deepest personal relationship



Fundamental

- Of or forming a foundation or basis; basic; essential
- On which others are based, primary; original
- Most important; chief



Qualities of a Fundamental Relationship with God

- Every aspect of relationship is active in a high degree
- The roles are not equal
- Continuous and perpetual communion - 1 Th. 5:16-18; 4:13-18
- The entire life is organized around the needs of the relationship - Prov. 3:5-12
- Complete surrender of every aspect of self to the other - Matt. 22:37-38; Rom. 12:1-2



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1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18
in everything give thanks; for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus for you.



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And **thus we shall always be with the Lord.** 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.



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Proverbs 3:5-12

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. 11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; 12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.



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Matthew 22:37-38

Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 This is the first and great commandment.



Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



Objections

- Too Extreme



Objections

- Too Extreme
- Loss of Identity



Matthew 10:39

He who finds his life will lose it, and **he who loses his life for My sake will find it.**



Objections

- Too Extreme
- Loss of Identity
- Price is too High



Matthew 13:45-46

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and **sold all that he had and bought it.**



Objections

- Too Extreme
- Loss of Identity
- Price is too High
- Wasted Life



1 Peter 4:1-5

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 **For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles** -- when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. 5 **They will give an account** to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.



Objections

- Too Extreme
- Loss of Identity
- Price is too High
- Wasted Life
- Neglect of other important things



Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."



Can we be OVER-COMMITTED to God?

- We cannot OUT-THINK God
- We cannot OUT-LIVE God
- We cannot OUT-LOVE God
- We cannot OUT-GIVE God



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- We cannot OUT-GIVE God
- We cannot OUT-GROW God



Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man**, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, **being rooted and grounded in love**, 18 **may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height** 19 **to know the love of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.



Ephesians 3:14-21

20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly **above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



Alternatives to a Fundamental Relationship with God

- Spouse or Child or Friend
- Role or Organization or Cause
- Self



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Alternatives to a Fundamental Relationship with God

- Spouse or Child or Friend
- Role or Organization or Cause
- Self
 - Pleasure-seeking



Alexandr Solzhenitsyn

“If, as claimed by humanism, man were born only to be happy, he would not be born to die. Since his body is doomed to death, his task on earth evidently must be more spiritual: not a total engrossment in everyday life, not the search for the best ways to obtain material goods and then their carefree consumption. It has to be the fulfillment of a permanent, earnest duty so that one's life journey may become above all an experience of moral growth: to leave life a better human being than one started it”



Alternatives to a Fundamental Relationship with God

- Spouse or Child or Friend
- Role or Organization or Cause
- Self
 - Pleasure-seeking
 - Power-seeking



Problems with any Alternative Fundamental Relationship

- These relationships **CANNOT LAST**
- They cannot bear the weight of being the foundation of our whole lives
- They deny first place to our God



Hebrews 2:14-16

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and **release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.** 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.



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Exodus 20:2-3

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.



Can we have NO Fundamental Relationship?

- Many people organize their life this way
- Whichever relationship has the most urgent needs at the moment gets the focus
- Advantage: No extremes
- Disadvantage: No focus or purpose



A Fundamental Relationship with God

- Organization of our entire life around this relationship
- Complete surrender of every aspect of ourselves to Him
- Continuous and perpetual communion with Him



The Depth of Relationships



- Foreign
- Familiar
- Fellowship
- Friendship
- Family
- Fundamental

“Draw near to God, and
He will draw near to
you” – James 4:8

You can trust Him!
Will you trust Him?