

A Personal Relationship With God?

LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP

Matthew 22:36-40/ Romans 8:15

RELIGION OR RELATIONSHIP?

What's the Difference?

Luke 7:33-35

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HAVE A GREAT "RELATIONSHIP" WITH GOD?

A Starbucks Conversation

- ❶ Don't try to put God **first on your list**.
Put Him in the **middle of everything**.
Colossians 3:17

- ❷ Find out what **works for you**.
Romans 14:4-6/ Luke 7:33-35/ 1 John 2:3-5

- ❸ Beware of substituting empty **rituals** for a genuine **relationship**.
1 Samuel 15:22-23/ Colossians 2:20-23/ 1 Corinthians 13:2-3

- ❹ Expect to go through **seasons** & **stages**; every relationship does.
Romans 8:15 & Ephesians 5:1/ Proverbs 1:7 & John 15:14-15/ Revelation 2:1-7 misapplied to feelings

Have you ever found yourself needing to focus on one of these more than another during a particular season in your life?

What might be some indicators that you need to focus on one of these more than the others?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, are there any spiritual tools you want to focus on more during this season in your life?

Any new ones you've never really considered, but want to try?

Any you should focus on less?

Is there anything you need prayer for to help keep God at the center of your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS

✓

✓

✓

✓

NORTH COAST
community  service

STAND UP FOR KIDS - Stand Up for Kids' mission is to help homeless & street kids. They are in need of a meal for 35 teens on the following dates: May 4, June 1, 9, and 10. They are located in Oceanside. Bring meals at 5:30 PM. Sign up online at www.northcoastchurch.com/service.

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Put Him in the _____.
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❷ Find out what _____.
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❹ Expect to go through _____ & _____;
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Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 11, 2010

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. We all have different personality types and temperaments that impact how we interact and relate to others (outgoing, quiet, thinking out loud, internally processing, optimistic, high energy, mellow, free flowing, systematic, intuitive, skeptic, reflective, analytical, to name a few). What terms would you use to describe your personality?

How might the way you are wired help you relate to God?

Can you think of any ways it makes it more difficult?

2. Take a moment and think through some of the standard spiritual tools that help keep us connected to God (solitude, Bible reading, journaling, memorization, anonymous acts of service, prayer, sharing our faith, and the like), and then answer the questions below.

Which of these, if any, have been presented to you more as rules than tools?

Which, if any, have worked particularly well for you?

Which, if any, have you tried and found to be of little or no value for you spiritually?

3. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, was there any one point or idea that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Here are some passages that speak of God caring and wanting to relate to each of us personally. Look up each one and jot down the main point or insight it contains.

John 15:13-15

Matthew 11:28-30

Psalm 34:15, 18, 22

Isaiah 30:18

2. Jesus had some interesting thoughts about what it means for us as adults to interact with and relate to God. What does Jesus teach us in these passages about knowing and pleasing God?

Matthew 11:25-27

Matthew 18:1-5

In your thinking, what is the difference between a child-like faith and a childish faith?

3. Healthy long-term relationships don't happen by accident – they take ongoing intentional action. They also have seasons of strong connection as well as times when the intensity is not so great. How might the actions listed in the verses below help keep us connected to God no matter what season we're in?

James 2:26

Proverbs 28:13

Mark 1:35

Psalm 119:11-16

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Hebrews 10:25