

Study Guide
RelationSHIFTS (Performing to Conforming)
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The root word for “relationship” is “relate.” Webster’s Dictionary defines “relate” as, “to establish a connection.” A relationship will not be great if both parties cannot relate.

1 John 4:10, NLT

This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

The greatest relationSHIFT we can make is to shift our relationship with God from performing to earn His love to conforming to the love that He has for us.

Read Matthew 26:31-34.

**Where was Peter’s focus – on how much Jesus loved him, or on how much he loved Jesus?
How did Peter’s focus contribute to the outcome of his testing in this situation?**

Peter *denied* Jesus, because he *relied* on his love for Jesus.

Peter bragged on his love for Jesus, but John bragged on how much Jesus loved him.

Read the following verses:

John 13:23

John 20:2

John 21:7

John 21:20

John 19:26

How does John refer to himself in these verses?

Where is John’s focus – on how much Jesus loves him, or on how much he loves Jesus?

When all others *betrayed*, John *stayed* with Jesus – he was the only one at the cross.

John 19:26, NKJV

When Jesus therefore saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing by . . .

When we base our faith (put our trust) in our love for God, it leads to conceit and deceit.

When we base our faith (put our trust) in God’s love for us, we are confident and convinced.

Read 1 John 4:16.

Where should we put our trust – in our love for God or in God’s love for us?

What happens when we know (or rest in) how much God loves us?

When a couple has a child, they cannot help but be head-over-heels in love with their new baby. Why is that? It is because that baby came from them (it is their offspring).

Read Acts 17:28.

When we begin to believe how much we are loved, it will lead to greater responsibility.

Read John 19:26-17.

Why would Jesus entrust the care of His mother to John?

When we begin to believe how much we are loved, it will also lead to greater revelation.

Read John 21:20.

How was John able to receive the greater revelation (about Judas' betrayal)?

Our love (like Peter's) for God will fail, but God's love (like John knew) will always prevail.

Read John 21:15-17.

Why did Jesus ask 3 times if Peter loved Him?

What was Jesus focused on – Peter's love for Him, or His love for Peter?

When we stop performing to try and earn God's love and start conforming to the love God has for us, then when we fail (and everyone does fail) we will fail *forward*, finding grace and restoration in Christ.

Have you ever thought that you had sinned so greatly that you could not be redeemed?

Read Matthew 27:27-54.

There only time Jesus refers to His Father as "God." In the Old Testament, no one referred to God as "Father," but only referred to Him as "God."

For the first time in eternity, the Son and the Father were separated at the cross. Jesus shifted His relationship with His Father from "Father" to "God" so that we could shift our relationship with God from "God" to "Father."

How much does God love you?

If you ever question God's love for you, remember the cross and the relationSHIFT that Jesus endured so that you could have the greatest, most important relationSHIFT of your life.