

An Eternal Relationship

- 1 John 1:3 -

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God did not send His Son to start a new religion, even though Christianity, by definition, is a religion as it requires belief in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.

John 6:29

(Jesus) "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

However, for one to just merely believe, they may have a religion, but they may never experience the life which only comes through having a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The title of a Christian was not given by God nor by His Son Jesus, but was a nickname used by non-believers in the ancient city of Antioch during the time of the early church. This nickname was used to describe the disciples or followers of Christ. This name caught on quickly and soon became a title for all who believed and followed Jesus as the Christ. The apostles used it in their writings, and the first century, Jewish historian used it in his Book of Antiquities referring to the disciples of Christ as the "Tribe of Christians." (Jos. Antiq. 18.64)

God calls us His children; His chosen people; His servants; Jesus calls us His disciples; His friends; and His family – all of which speaks to our relationship with Him.

God's word describes our relationship to the world as that of salt because of the divine qualities we possess; a light in darkness; a city which sits exalted to the valley below – all of which describes our separation from the world along with our purpose in it.

Our relationship with the Lord is most important above all other relationships. Our relationship with the Lord is eternal while all other relationships will change. There will be no marriages in the eternal kingdom of God (Mt. 22:30) for the needs of such relationships will no longer exist.

When we see God face to face, we will know Him just as we know each other now. (1 Cor. 13:12) This, I believe, bears out two truths: one, our relationship with God will be perfected, and two, we will continue to know each other as we have been known on this earth.

The priority of our relationship with Christ.

Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

How healthy is our relationship with the Lord?

Our relationship with the Lord is exemplified by the marriage relationship. The church is described to be the bride of Christ. We are called to be consecrated to Him; therefore, to share our heart with the world is described as spiritual adultery. If we love the world or the things of the world, the bible states that we really don't have a true, committed love for God. (1 Jn. 2:15)

Relationships are only as strong as the investments placed into them by both parties. No strong relationship is one-sided. Think of what God has invested into the relationship which He desires to have with us. We can affirm these words: "God is faithful."

Romans 12:1 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Are you willing to make a growth commitment into your relationship with Jesus today? Such commitments will require a denial of self; sacrifice; and the willingness to trust in the faithfulness of God.

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Revelation 21:3 (NIV) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.