

The Value of *Relationships*

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Believe. Belong. Become.

Introduction:

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (V. 15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (V. 16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 6:14-

16

An Intimate Love Relationship with Christ

He feels supreme love for

One he's never seen.

He talks familiarly every day to

Someone he cannot see.

He expects to go to heaven on

The virtue of Another.

He empties himself in order to be full.

He admits he is wrong so he

Can be declared right.

He goes down in order to get up.

He is strongest when he is weakest,

Richest when he is poorest,

Happiest when he feels the worst.

He dies so he can live.

He forsakes in order to have.

He gives away so he can keep.

He sees the invisible.

He hears the inaudible,

He knows that which passes understanding.

I. A relationship of divine proportion has a shared ambition.

A. There must be a shared purpose of a shared promise.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. **John 15:7**

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (V. 7) And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7**

(To want a relationship with Christ is to love peace. If you don't value peace, you will not value a relationship with Him.)

B. There must be a shared purpose of productivity.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. **John 15:8**

*“Apple trees bear apples, wheat stalks produce wheat,
and forgiven people forgive people.”
- Max Lucado*

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. **John 4:34**

II. A relationship of divine proportion has a shared affection.

A. It is an affection built on admiration.

As the Father hath loved me, . . . **John 15:9**

**How Did God Express Love To Jesus in
His Earthly Ministry?**

1. God identified Himself with Jesus in the use of endearing terms.

*Beginning of His Ministry: . . . *This is my beloved Son,* **Matthew 3:17**

*End of His Ministry: . . . *This is my beloved Son,* **Matthew 17:5**

2. God gave verbal assurance to Jesus concerning the action He had taken.

*Beginning of His Ministry: . . . *in whom I am well pleased.* **Matthew 3:17**

*End of His Ministry: . . . *in whom I am well pleased;* **Matthew 17:5**

3. God gave verbal affirmation to Jesus in His acts of ministry.

*At Jesus' Baptism: *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* **Matthew 3:17**

*God honored Christ's ministry by allowing His name to be associated with Him. *Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.* **John 12:28**

4. God gave Jesus priority over all other prophets that had preceded Him.

*Mount of Transfiguration: *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.* **Matthew 17:5**

B. It is an affection built on attachment.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. **John 15:9**

III. A relationship of divine proportion has a shared allegiance.

A. It is an allegiance to the directives of Christ.

*"The stronger the allegiance to the commandments,
the stronger the relationship grows."*

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. John 15:10

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. Faithfulness to the commandments of love is easy if really love them. 1 John 5:3

B. It is an allegiance to the delight of Christ.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. John 15:11

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

A Godly Relationship is Fulfilled in A Willingness to Sacrifice

In order for a relationship to fulfill its purpose someone must sacrifice. Jesus was willing to put himself into a position of sacrifice. God in turn honored Him at the highest level for His sacrifice.

A Godly sacrifice accomplishes a great work that continues long after the sacrifice has been made. The danger of sacrificing for vain things is that the sacrifice often loses its value before the sacrifice is over.

The sacrifice can only be fulfilling if the purpose of the sacrifice is redemptive. Many relationships lose their fulfillment when they sacrifice for a purpose that is unworthy of the sacrifice.

Christ's sacrifice gave the ultimate definition to the relationship that man shares with God.