

10/23/05 – “GOD’S RELATIONAL”

Everybody needs significance – The truth is that we are eternally significant to God – We are His creation, made for a purpose
“There is not a spider hanging on the wall that doesn’t have an errand; there is not a weed growing in the corner of the church lot that doesn’t have a purpose; there is not a single insect fluttering in the breeze that does not accomplish some divine decree. And I will never believe that God created any man, especially any Christian man, to be a blank, and to be a nothing.” – C.H. Spurgeon

Christians don’t join a religion, rather we join ourselves to Jesus Christ who is both Lord and Savior

When God created man, He called them to rule over His creation in fellowship with Him, reflecting His glory and honor - Genesis 1:26-28

A relationship with God calls us to know, love and serve Him with all our heart, strength and soul...and to love our neighbor as ourself

Everything that makes for a good relationship is found in Christ as He is forever faithful and true...will never leave or forsake us!

The Lord is completely trustworthy and communicates to us through His Word, Spirit and circumstances and challenges of life

Communication is a two-way street... both sending and receiving - It’s being authentic and transparent and postured to listen

Communion, community and communication are relational words calling for interaction, intentionality and integrity

He knows all of our habits...good and bad, our length of days and created us to live beyond own self-interests for good works

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads us - His thoughts towards us are countless as the sands of the seashore – Ps. 103

Abraham was called the “Friend of God” and was a man of faith - Though not perfect, Abraham believed God and obeyed His Word

FAITH PLEASES GOD

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God.” – Heb. 11:1-3 - The Word of God, our standard of faith and practice and our roadmap for life

The Bible is God’s letter to us telling us who He is, and who we are as He reveals Himself and His ways through the Word of God

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God - *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him...”* Hebrews 11:6

Authentic faith means we trust God more than we trust ourselves and believe He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

Faith doesn’t say our senses are faulty – Faith says our senses aren’t final!...even in the most difficult of circumstances

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” – Psalm3:5-6 - “...the righteous will live by his faith.” – Habakkuk 2:4 - “...we walk by faith, not by sight...” – 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith is not a technique of wishful thinking or mere positive mental attitude, nor is it visualizing and declaring what you want

Faith is for more than spiritual training, belonging to a certain church, denomination or Christian group

“Faith is the assurance (substance) of things hoped for, the conviction (evidence) of things not seen.” – Hebrews 11:1 – Faith pleases God...

GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

Pray to Him – Prayer begins by simply talking to God – Intercession, petitions and supplication are part of a full prayer life – Pray without ceasing...

Praise Him...He inhabits the praises of His people – God delights in praise – Praise is sacrificial, God honoring and effective in warfare

Worship Him...God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth (integrity) – John 4 – The right way with right heart

Obeys Him – *“You are My friends, if you do what I command you.”*–John 15:14 – Obedience is is hallmark of true friendship to God

Pursue Him – *“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.”* Matt. 7:7 – Proactive towards the Lord

Love Him – *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...”* – John 14:23 – Abiding in His Word keeps The Lord central to all of life

Confess to Him – *“All sin and fall short of the glory of God”*–Rom. 3:23–We are cleansed and restored through confession, forgiveness and repentance

Know Him - *“...that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* – Philip. 3:10-14 – God is relational and with us every step of the way! **IMMANUEL...GOD WITH US!**