

Relationship with God

Mark 12:30 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Premise: A relationship with God involves more than knowledge and obedience.

Friendship with God

- Isaiah 41:8 Abraham My friend
- 2 Chronicles 20:7 Abraham Thy friend
- James 2:23 He was called the friend of God
- Exodus 33:11 Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.

Special Relationships with God

- John the Apostle was called “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20).
- Solomon was loved by God (2 Samuel 12:24) and Solomon loved God (1 Kings 3:3).
- David was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:26).

Review: Characteristics of Faith

- Acceptance of the resurrection as evidence
- Acceptance of the need for a sacrifice
- Acceptance of the Word of God as true
- A realistic hope of heaven
- Trust in the promises of God
- Obedience
- Evangelism

Is friendship with God necessary for faith?

Review: Justification

We are declared to be right with God by:

- Jesus’ blood (Romans 5:9)
- Jesus’ faith (Galatians 2:16 – 17, 3:22 - 24)
- Our faith (Romans 3:26)
- Generic faith (Romans 5:1)
- Our actions (Romans 2:13, James 2:21 – 24)
 - Although not exclusively (Romans 4:2)

Is friendship with God necessary to be justified?

Review: Good Works

- Developing certain positive personality traits
- Abstaining from evil
- Submitting to masters and government
- Enduring injustice
- Leading, teaching, and serving
- Sharing with the poor
- Supporting teachers

Is friendship with God necessary for good works?

Review: Our Sacrifice

- Evangelism (Romans 15:16)
- Praise (Hebrews 13:15)
- Doing good and sharing (Hebrews 13:16, Philippians 4:18)
- General Christian activities (1 Peter 2:5)
- Faith (Philippians 2:17)
- Our bodies (Romans 12:1)
- Participation in Jesus' sacrifice (1 Corinthians 11:16 – 27)

Is friendship with God necessary for sacrifice?

Is Friendship with God Necessary?

How do the Scriptures suggest we develop

- A love for God?
- A friendship with God?
- A personal relationship with God?

How Do We Find the Answer?

1. Read the whole Bible with the question in mind.
2. Look up all passages that contain:
 - a) Friend
 - b) Love
 - c) Heart
 - d) Suggestions?

Language Disclaimer

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word used for our love for God is also used for our love for a good leader, friends, husbands, wives, neighbors, and lusting after a woman.

In the New Testament, the Greek word for our love for God is also used for our love for the saints, neighbors, and wives.

God used a generic word we already know.

The Law Specifies Love and Obedience

Many times in the Law, God specifies the parallel facets of love and obedience as necessary (Deuteronomy 7:9, 10:12, 11:1, 11:13, 11:22, 19:9, 30:16)

The same concept is repeated by other prophets (Joshua 22:5, 23:11; Nehemiah 1:5)

See also 1 John 5:2

Results of Obedience without Love

Luke 11:42 Woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithes of mint and rue and every kind of herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these you should have done without neglecting the others.

John 5:39 – 47 You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life . . .but I know that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.

Unexpected Benefits of Loving God

- Deuteronomy 13:3 – 4 The love of God allows one to resist false prophets.
- Romans 8:28 All things work together for good for those who love God.
- 1 Corinthians 2:9 God gave understanding of the gospel to those who love Him.
- 1 Corinthians 8:3 If anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

Developing a Love for God

- Several Psalms tells why the author loves God. (18, 31:23, 40:16, 69:36, 70:4, 116)
- 1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.

God Helps Us Love Him

Deuteronomy 30:6 The Lord your God will circumcise your heart . . . to love the Lord your God . . .

Romans 5:5 . . .the Love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.