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## Chapter 1 : Lesson Healthy Relationships (Colossians ) | calendrierdelascience.com

*When the church is right on prayer, the church has great potential power. WORSHIP: John Worship is perhaps the most intimate of all ongoing relationships with God.*

Tweet Husbands and wives; brothers and sisters; dads, moms and children; cousins; best friends and even business associates: I have a dear friend that once told me that relationships are most important and the more you cultivate relationships the better they become. She said just like a garden it takes work to make a relationship grow and last. The first relationships on earth are recorded in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. That is the relationship of God to man and then the relationship of man to animals and ultimately the relationship of husband and wife; the beginning of the family. When we know Jesus, a good relationship with Him will sustain us through all other earthly relationships because it is the only relationship that is guaranteed for all of eternity. Here are twenty good scriptures about relationships that I found in the Bible. Husband and Wife Genesis 2: And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Parents and Children Exodus Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates. If then I am a father, where is my honour? And if I am a master, where is my fear? The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 1 Peter 1: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. Was This Article Helpful? If this article was helpful to you, please consider linking this article to your own blog or sharing this through the social buttons to the left. You might also check out the following article as well as the related posts below: Just click the button below to get started.

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## Chapter 2 : When Sheep Squabble – Dealing With Conflict in the Smaller Church

*Faith develops in the context of our ongoing relationship with God. We easily relate to being a child of God or a servant of God, but find it hard to grasp being a friend of God. God desires to establish a connection, an association, an affiliation, a very special link and bond between Himself and His children.*

Series 3 - Getting to Really Know God Hi, friends, and welcome to this lesson! This lesson is a step beyond, showing you how to really know God by developing a close personal and intimate relationship with Him. This lesson explains several practical and specific things you can do and will want to do to draw closer to God. If you are not already doing these things, it is our hope and prayer that you will want to start right away. How to Build a Close Relationship With God Although God is invisible to us mortals, He can become the most reliable, trusted and loving reality in your life! Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell [the grave], behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" Psalm People forget about God, but God never forgets about us. He is always available to you if you "seek Him with all your heart" Deuteronomy 4: A relationship with God begins when God calls us or draws us. Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up [resurrect him] at the last day" John 6: After God calls us, He expects us from then on to exercise initiative in seeking to draw near to Him. If we do, we have this very encouraging promise: The promise of a resurrection to life after death becomes a primary motivator. It is that "better hope, through which we draw near to God" Hebrews 7: This lesson will cover some specific ways to develop and maintain a close relationship with God. How valuable is it to read and study the Bible? All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. The Bible is more valuable than all the rest of the books in the world, combined; it is priceless! Even kings were commanded to read the Scriptures daily Deuteronomy We must listen, and listen carefully! You must think about them night and day so that you will faithfully do everything written in them. Only then will you prosper and succeed. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take time to really think about what you are reading and you will get a lot more out of it. Meditate and reflect deeply on the meaning of the scriptures and their application to your life. Can we talk to God at any time and know that He hears us? And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. The Bible has many scriptures that exhort us to pray and many that give pointers on how to pray. God expects us to maintain daily two-way communication with Him—reading His messages in the Bible and talking to Him in prayer. And the more you pray, the more natural it will be for you. The Bible compares the "prayers of the saints" with sweet-smelling incense, because they please God Revelation 5: Can we walk with God? And what exactly does that mean? This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it. This includes keeping the Fourth Commandment as Jesus did. As you see, we must talk and walk with God. Does spiritual fasting also help in drawing close to God? So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer. When you sincerely fast, God is pleased and will help you grow spiritually. As we discussed in Lesson 4 in this series, God has two primary means of revealing Himself to humanity: His written revelation—the Bible—and the evidence of creation. Creation is fascinating, because we never cease to learn from it and be inspired by it. From creation we learn many things about the Creator. Will we be much closer to God if we stay away from bad influences? As God has said: I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. We often must choose between exposing ourselves to bad

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influences or surrounding ourselves with good influences including other believers. God is very displeased when we choose evil or what will lead us toward evil. The mind is like a sponge that will soak up whatever you expose it to, whether good or evil, and what goes in stays in, to a great extent. A computer is a good comparison. Garbage in, garbage out. God knows our every thought. Do materialism and an overly-busy life interfere with relationships? You cannot serve God and mammon [money, materialism]. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. Money is not evil, but the love of money is a major root of evil. So, yes, materialism and a super-busy life interfere with all our relationships and especially our relationship with God. They can choke to death our spiritual life like weeds choke to death the life of garden plants. When money and things become overly important to us, they are becoming our gods, which means we are breaking the first of the Ten Commandments by prioritizing them over God. Are satanic and demonic influences a significant danger? Resist him, steadfast in the faith Resist the devil and he will flee from you. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Satan "deceives the whole world" Revelation Satan hates all people, but he especially wants to deceive and destroy anyone trying to obey God. We attract Satan and the demons and become vulnerable to them if we are sinning, dabbling in spiritism or the occult, or letting down spiritually in some other way. And when one walks in the way of the devil, he or she is alienating himself or herself from God. What is the ultimate, most powerful way to stay close to God? Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. How is it possible for a mortal human to have an intimate and ongoing relationship with the divine God? To receive the Holy Spirit, we must repent of our sins and be baptized. God desires a close relationship with everyone. In fact, He wants all people to eventually be His "sons and daughters" 2 Corinthians 6: Apply Now Daily prayer is a principle key explained above, and a major part of our prayers should be thanking and praising God for His many blessings. Many, many scriptures throughout the Bible exhort us to thank and praise God in prayer and in song. God loves the attitude of gratitude! Make it a habit to count your many blessings and praise God for them! Stop and think about many of the blessings and benefits that God has given you, and make a list of them. You probably will be pleasantly surprised at how many you can quickly think of. And God will be well pleased that you immediately took this wonderful action and step forward. You have completed the six lessons in the "Getting to Really Know God" series. See the Bible Study Guides home page for your choice of future lessons to study. Questions about this lesson? Feedback about this lesson?

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### Chapter 3 : Do You Have a Right Relationship With God? - Church of Christ Articles

*Our lives are based upon relationships. People seek out relationships because God has created in us a need for friends and companionship. We have relationships with our employers, employees, co-workers, neighbors, friends and relatives.*

Related Media April 17, What do you want most out of life? Most of us would rank healthy relationships high on the list. Except for knowing Christ and having eternal life, healthy relationships make life enjoyable perhaps more than anything else. You can make a pile of money, but if your relationships are broken or shallow, your life will be empty. A poor man with a loving family and good friends is far richer than a rich man who is poor relationally. The Bible ranks healthy relationships as the most important thing in life. A Jewish religious expert asked Jesus Matt. The Bible is all about these two important relationships. Many Christian homes have been shattered by divorce. Some who stay married are unhappy. Their homes are a tense battle ground, not a loving refuge. Many Christian parents are at odds with their kids and the kids with their parents. On the church level, some bounce from church to church, leaving a trail of damaged relationships behind. Sadly, the loving families, genuine friendships, and healthy relationships that we want most out of life often elude us. In our text, Paul gives the prescription for healthy relationships. Paul acknowledged this when he wrote Rom. But often if you treat a difficult person with the qualities that Paul enumerates in our text, he will change for the better in how he relates to you. But even if some relationships never improve, if you relate to others as Paul describes here, most of your relationships will be healthy. The reason you should do this is because God has graciously chosen and loved you. Paul first gives the basis for the commands which follow, namely, how God has treated us: God has graciously chosen us in love to be set apart to Himself. The flow of thought is: Because we have laid aside the old man what we were in Adam and have put on the new man what we now are in Christ, both individually and corporately, and because in this new corporate man old differences no longer matter, but Christ is all and in all, therefore, we should put on the qualities listed here. Paul begins by stating that God has graciously chosen us. That truth should be a great comfort for every believer, but I realize that it causes problems for many. It also presumes that sinners have the ability to believe in Christ, which contradicts many Scriptures. For example, Jesus said John 6: Saving faith is a gift from God, not something that any sinner can do on his own Eph. If God chose us based on foreseen faith, then it means that He made up His eternal plan based on what sinful people decided to do, rather than on His will Eph. It makes us sovereign, with God subservient to our will—a horrible thought! The main thing is to let God be God and submit to the truth and the balance of His Word. He chose you for salvation 1 Cor. It assures me, as Paul said Phil. To be holy means to be set apart unto God, separate from the world. Picture a wife who is set apart from others for her husband who loves her. She delights to keep herself from others and to give herself exclusively to him because of his love. So we too should keep ourselves pure from this evil world and be exclusively devoted to Christ, who loved us and chose us as His bride. But why does Paul mention that we are chosen by God, holy and beloved, in the context of talking about healthy relationships? For at least two reasons. I can give a blessing instead 1 Pet. We should treat others with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and forgiveness. Actually, there are five nouns: Before we look at these qualities, I have two observations. First, every Christian should have these character qualities, but there is freedom for different personality types. These qualities will take one form with a Barnabas, another with a Paul, and another with a Peter. Second, all these character qualities are modeled in Jesus Christ. He was compassionate and kind Matt. He is our great example of how to relate to others. We should treat others with compassion. The main thing to grasp is that this is an emotional term. Being moved to compassion involves the feelings, not just the head. It means being touched by the needs of people so that we respond with appropriate action to help them. Jesus used this word to describe the good Samaritan, who felt compassion for the wounded traveler and was moved to help him Luke He used it of the father of the prodigal son, who saw

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his wayward son returning, felt compassion for him, ran to him, embraced him and kissed him Luke He was stirred emotionally when he saw his son coming home. Jesus felt compassion for the widow of Nain who had lost her only son Luke 7: When Jesus saw the multitudes, He felt compassion for them Matt. On another occasion, Jesus and His disciples withdrew to a lonely place for some much needed rest. When they arrived by boat, they discovered that the crowd had arrived by land before them. Jesus saw them, felt compassion for them and healed their sick. The disciples saw them and said as I would have said! Jesus saw the multitude and felt compassion because He saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd Mark 8: It all depends on your focus. We should treat others with kindness. To be kind means to be free from all which is harsh, rough, and bitter. This word was used to describe wine that had mellowed Luke 5: A kind person is not demanding and pushy. He gives others room to be imperfect without crawling all over them. Joseph is a great example of kindness. His brothers had hated him and sold him into slavery. He easily could have taken vengeance on his brothers, but instead, he forgave them and was generous with them. After their father, Jacob, died, the brothers became afraid because they thought that perhaps Joseph would now pay them back for what they had done to him. But when Joseph heard it, he wept and spoke kindly to his brothers, assuring them of his continuing love and care for them and their children Gen. Jesus said that God Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men Luke 6: Paul said that the kindness of God leads us to repentance Rom. We should treat others with humility. But I find that neither helpful nor correct. But then what does it mean? Biblically, there are three sides to it: First, a humble person is Christ-sufficient, not self-sufficient. A humble person consciously relies on the Lord and recognizes that God has given him all that he has 1 Pet. Second, a humble person has a proper evaluation of himself. Third, a humble person esteems others more highly than himself. As Paul said Phil. He esteemed us more highly than himself. We should treat others with gentleness. It does not mean to be a mild-mannered, compliant milquetoast. Plato used the word of a gentle doctor who used only enough force as in setting a broken bone to bring healing. So the gentle person will sometimes be strong to confront sin, but only strong enough to bring healing Gal. We should treat others with patience. Kindness, gentleness, and patience are listed in the fruit of the Spirit Gal. It means being tolerant of imperfections, differences and faults in others. The patient person gives others time to change and room to make mistakes in the process. We should treat others with forbearance. We must never be forbearing when it comes to biblical moral absolutes. We should treat others with forgiveness. Rather than holding a grudge or harboring bitterness and resentment, we must forgive those who wrong us. Did you notice that many of these qualities are needed only when you have a complaint against someone? He never hauls out our past as leverage against us.

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### Chapter 4 : How Do You Have A Relationship With God?

*God puts us each in His Church where He wants us, with our own specific part to play (1 Corinthians 1 Corinthians But now has God set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased him.*

Scripture tells us that God is a person who thinks and feels. He wants to have a deep connection to all of us. Rather God wants to have a deep intimate relationship with each person that He created in His own image. When Jesus was here on Earth, He basically said that many religious people will not be on His side on the final judgment day. He told us to beware of religiosity. Restricting God to only one area of our lives is wrong and will bring a lot of heartache. Life is already difficult even if you are connected to God, but without Him the consequences can be terrifying. Allow God to direct you. Having a true relationship with the Lord means that you are inviting Him into every part of your heart and life. We need to let Him influence everything: He can transform every aspect of our being and help us when setting goals. He can make our lives whole. Remember that whatever the questionâ€ God has the answer. The world tells us that we should be independent. The truth is that there really is no such thing. We are not independent. We are not able to solve all of our problems on our own. And you know something: He created us to be dependent on Him. The moment that we begin to rely on our own rationale, our own strength, and on our own capacity we are stepping out from His perfect plan to hold us in His hands and guide us. Some people even have spiritual pride and trust their religious rituals to save them. We must depend on God to direct us and to tell us what we are supposed to do next. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. At the same time we should recognize that we have a God that is all knowing, all powerful and willing to provide the answers to us if only we will seek Him. If we are trusting God , then we can be sure to do great things because He is behind it all. We discover great peace when we rest in Him. The sooner you start to rely on the Lord to lead your life, the sooner you will be able to rest in Him. Trusting on things that can fall also leads to problems with anxiety. If you suffer from that, this article on how to get rid of anxiety through God will help you. This is the essence of the message of the following verse: Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it: It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: When He tells you what to do, then your role is to simply obey. As Charles Stanley always says: Obey God and leave the consequences up to Him. There is tremendous rest for your soul when you do that. Do you ever feel like your life is a bit empty or meaningless? Do you ever feel like there is a deep hole in your soul? When you are in agreement with God and living for Him at all moments, then His Spirit will flow in you and fill that hole. He needs to be the main reason for your life. He needs to be number one and the center of all of your being. Center your life on God and everything else will fall into place. How do you center your life on God? By spending time in developing your relationship with Him. The best way to approach God is with an open heart to establish this deep bond. Every relationship requires that you spend time with the person. How much time do you spend praying each day? Do you talk to the Lord throughout your day? There are ways in which to get closer to God like meditating on His attributes and spending time in prayer. Listen and get to know Him. One of the things that might help you is knowing how to make a prayer journal to keep track of answered prayers and see the Lord working in your life. He renews our minds and strengthens our spirits when we read His Word. Here is a post that will help you learn how to understand the Bible better. Praise and Worship Spend time simply praising and telling Him that He is your everything. Praise and worship is a sure way for you to experience the practice of the presence of God in your daily life. Let everything be guided by the right motivation. If your number one goal in life is to please the Lord, then whatever you do will honor Him. All things in your life, even the difficult parts, will work together for His glory. Our role is to simply make sure that our hearts are in the right place. So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. When we yearn for Him, He tells us His goals for our lives. His Presence flows and gives us joy. He inspires us to fulfill His will. What has been your experience with the Lord? Please share with us in the

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### Chapter 5 : Where Christian churches, other religions stand on gay marriage | Pew Research Center

*In this article, we will be comparing the differences between religion vs relationship with God. As believers if we are not careful we can easily be involved in religion and be oblivious to it. Religion can easily dominate your prayer life.*

Why should God let you into Heaven? Do you know the answer? Are you confident in your salvation? Religion Vs Relationship With God Fritz Chery 0 comments In this article, we will be comparing the differences between religion vs relationship with God. As believers if we are not careful we can easily be involved in religion and be oblivious to it. Religion can easily dominate your prayer life. Religion can easily dominate your daily walk with Christ. Religion cripples your relationship with God and it greatly hinders us. There are many things that will be discussed in this article. I encourage you as you read this article to examine your life. A Christian is a person whose heart has been changed; they have new affections. Relationship is a guy out fishing thinking about God. You have to trust in the One who has done it for you. Whether Catholicism, Islam, etc. Every other religion in the world teaches a works based salvation. Christianity is the only religion in the world where you are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone. Religion keeps you in chains, but Christ has set us free. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. Christianity is a religion, but as believers we treat it as a relationship. The problem that I see in many Christian circles is that many people use the grace of God to indulge in sin. I hate the aspect of religion that says you have to do something to be right with God. I hate when someone tries to put legalistic rules upon believers. However, evidence of your faith in Christ is that your life will change. Evidence of your faith in Christ is that you will have new desires for Christ and His Word. Jesus hates hypocrisy, false religion, and He hates when people try to appear religious to show off. However, in John We obey out of love and gratitude. You act as you are which is a new creation. Matthew Henry Commentary for James 1: He wants you to seek Him. Words mean nothing if the heart is not right. Are you involved in religion or are you involved in a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ? When you pray is your heart looking for Christ? Is your prayer life boring? If it is, then that is strong evidence that you are involved in religion. The heart knows its maker. Which one describes your prayer life? Your prayer life dies when you become satisfied with religion. Stop going through the motions. You sit there in prayer and you say repetitive words and you know the heart is not right. You cheat yourself out the presence of God. I did my duty. Prayer is not a choir. We have become content with throwing words around. But do I ever pray? And do the wishes of my heart go with the words I say? I may as well kneel down and worship gods of stone, as offer to the living God a prayer of words alone. For words without the heart the Lord will never hear, nor will He to those lips attend whose prayers are not sincere. Lord teach me what I need, and teach me how to pray; Nor let me ask thy grace, not feeling what I say. Are you willing to wait for more of His presence? Do you cry out all night to know Him? You say the right words, but is your heart right? God wants you to understand His love. We often think that God wants us to do something for Him. He wants your relationship with Him to be characterized by love and not duty. Do you have a genuine love for the Lord? I know of many Pharisees who say they know the love of God but they live as if they are in chains. Their life is filled with a false sense of condemnation and hate. Why live like that? Maybe you are a pastor and you fear the Lord, you obey Him, you do things for Him, you pray to Him, but do you genuinely love Him? We treat God like a loveless earthly father. When your father is loveless or he never tells you about his love for you, then you feel as if you have to do more to gain his love. Does this sound like your relationship with God? Have you grown bitter over the years? The only reason we can love is because God loved us so much. Have you ever sat down and thought about that? The love that you use to love others and the love that you use to love Him is from His great love for you. We will never understand His great love for us. He loves you, not based on what you can do for Him, but because of who He is and what He has done for you in the finished work of Christ. Sometimes we have to just stop for a second, be still, and sit in His presence. When you go to prayer from now on, ask the Holy

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Spirit to help you to understand His love. Pray for more of His presence. When we are in fellowship with God and our hearts are aligned with Him we will feel His love. Examine yourself, renew your mind, and truly seek Christ daily. Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Signup today and receive encouragement, updates, help, and more straight in your inbox.

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### Chapter 6 : Bible Verses About Relationships: 20 Good Scriptures

*Let's look at various ways to develop or deepen your personal relationship with the Lord: through prayer, letting God be in control of your life, being involved with the Church, growing in devotion to the Blessed Mother, and seeking spiritual direction.*

I know I have, and chances are you have too. We often tend to think feeling truly connected to God is out of reach, or only for other people, but God longs for that closeness with every one of us – not because of who we are, but because of Who He is. If we are willing to make a relationship with Him a priority, we will eventually begin feeling His closeness. In my Proverbs 31 Devotion today, I talked about the spiritual junk food that often prevents us from focusing on our faith or feeling close to God, and you can read that devotion here. Spend quiet time with God. How often do we hear how important this is? But how often do we really make it a priority? Life is busy and we all have routines. If reading the whole thing over a year or so seems overwhelming, commit to digesting it in smaller portions, possibly reading one chapter or one book a week. God speaks through His Word, so if your goal is not only grow closer to God, but to begin hearing from Him with spiritual clarity, spending time reading what He has written will open up doors for spiritual growth. For additional info on getting the most out of reading your Bible, [click here](#) to read a past blog post which shares tips and questions for deeper bible study. Spend time with other believers. Seek out friends, support groups, or bible studies where conversation will fuel your faith, not squelch it. Live out your faith. This might sound like the hard part, yet when we make the first five tips a priority in our life, then living out our faith become a reality. A heart on fire for Christ transforms our inner thoughts and desires and results in not only the desire to live out our faith, but the inspiration and motivation to do whatever it takes to do so. A close relationship with our Savior is possible for all of us. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Consider sharing your words of wisdom in the comment section!

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### Chapter 7 : How to Build a Relationship with God

*The church is God's earthly kingdom of right relationships, intended to glorify Him, by showing forth the excellency of His nature. God's relationship with us is eternal. Establishing and maintaining relationships requires commitment. Read the following passages and discover the extent of God's ongoing commitment to His relationship with us.*

Pin It Many have been the times I have heard people say that obedience to God is not as important as our relationship with Him. People believe that God knows their heart and that if they have love for God in their hearts then His grace will somehow make up the difference between obedience and disobedience. The purpose of this lesson is to examine the various characteristics of our relationship with God and to determine what the word of God teaches about our relationship to God. According to Paul in Timothy 3: They are profitable for a number of things such as doctrine, reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness. Taken as a whole they are able to thoroughly equip mankind for all good works. So with that in mind, we are going to examine what the word of God says about having a right relationship with God. There are several characteristics of a relationship with God mentioned in scripture. We are commanded to Love God in Matthew John records this for us in John He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: Lack of obedience indicates a lack of love on our part. So from the words of Jesus as recorded by John, our relationship of love for God is built on the foundation of our obedience to Him. Abraham was called the friend of God. We can learn about that in James 2: Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: Where there is no obedience, there is no love. Likewise where there is no obedience, there is no friendship with God. One one occasion while teaching, Jesus mother and His brothers had come to see Him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! Paul wrote in Galatians 3: John wrote in 1: And of course, this makes God our Father. Jesus affirms this relationship in Matthew Let us consider the words of John in 1 John 3: Paul pronounced the wrath of God upon children of disobedience in Ephesians 5: John taught this in 1 John 3: Walking in darkness is the opposite of walking in the light. Those who claim to be in fellowship with God, but are not following after Jesus, walking in the light and living obediently, are not telling the truth. They do not have the fellowship with God they claim to have. Therefore the Christians fellowship relationship with God is dependent completely upon their obedience to His will. Several Christians in the first century affirmed this in writing. Paul referred to himself as a bondservant in Romans 1: Paul referred to Epaphras as a bondservant in Colossians 4: Peter referred to himself as a bondservant in 2 Peter 1: Jude and James both did this in the first verses of the epistles written by them as well. Concerning the bondservant relationship we have with God, Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2: Our bondservice must come from our hearts, meaning it is our desire to have this relationship with God, and as such, we are obligated to conduct ourselves in the same manner towards God as an earthly bondservant is obligated to his master here on earth. A bondservant is a person bound in servitude to another human being as an instrument of labor. Sometimes someone who owed a debt they could not pay would offer themselves as bondservants until such time as the debt was satisfied. This is the relationship which several inspired writers claimed to be in towards Jesus Christ. Scripture teaches us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God Romans 3: Paul taught in Ephesians 2: This was accomplished through the atoning work of Jesus on the cross when He shed His blood for the sins of mankind. With His death, Jesus Christ satisfied the death penalty each and ever accountable individual owes for their transgressions. There is a penalty associated with sin. This penalty is death Romans 6: Jesus paid that penalty at great personal cost and thereby placed us in the position of owing Him our very lives. While Jesus paid this sin debt for all, Christians are not free to live their lives as they see fit. Because of what Jesus did on the cross for all mankind, a debt which we can never repay has been paid for us. We owe

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our lives to Jesus Christ. This is a debt we can never repay. Christians are called to offer their bodies a living sacrifice to God in Romans. Sacrifices are required to be of the free will nature. Therefore Christians are called to offer their lives as bondservants to Christ. Being made free from the sin which enslaves us and kills us, we willingly offer ourselves as bondservants to Jesus Christ. This relationship of a bondservant to Christ is described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 7: Ye were bought with a price; become not bondservants of men. Either the debt is paid or the bondservant dies during the period of time required to satisfy the debt owed. There is simply nothing mankind can do, either collectively or individually that can repay what it cost Jesus to offer us salvation. There is no way we can take Jesus off the cross or make it unnecessary for Him to have been there. We cannot repay what Jesus gave up for us. Such is the bondservant aspect of our relationship with Jesus Christ. We are literally to be in voluntary bondage to Christ Jesus and as such, we are obligated to conduct ourselves as true bondservants. True bondservants serve their master obediently and faithfully for the duration of their bondage. And call no man your father upon the earth: Neither be ye called masters: When we do not obey Jesus, He is not our master. Jesus taught in Matthew 6: This means knowing His will, His love, His mercy and His nature. John wrote concerning this in 1 John 2: According to John, anyone who claims to know Christ but is not obedient to Him is a liar and has no truth in Him at all. If we do not know God, then it is reasonable to conclude that He does not know us. Jesus wrote in Matthew 7: Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: How is your relationship with God? Is your relationship with God according to scripture? Are you an active participant in your relationship with God? You can answer that by asking whether or not you are obedient to Him. Is your relationship built on obedience or is it built on an emotional state? Do you love God the way God says He wants to be loved in scripture, or do you love God the way you want to love Him? Are you an obedient friend of God, or is your friendship with God a one way friendship? Is your fellowship with God based on obedient service to Him? Are you an obedient child of God or are you a disobedient and rebellious child? Are you a faithful and obedient bondservant of Christ or do you serve God your way? Do you know God, does God know you? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. We love Him so much for what He did for us. We recognize that nothing we can ever do could earn us a relationship with Him. God loved us enough to send His Son to die for our sins. Jesus loved us enough to willingly offer Himself as a sacrifice for us. He died at our hands so that we may be saved. But what we can do, is honor the sacrifice and love that God demonstrated on our behalf with the love and sacrifice of ourselves back to him. Paul wrote in Romans

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### Chapter 8 : Roman Catholicism - Sacred Narratives

*How is it possible for a mortal human to have an intimate and ongoing relationship with the divine God? The most important key is God's gift of His Spirit to dwell in one's heart and mind! God's Spirit works to transform human nature to a godly nature and the mind of Christ, so instead of being inclined to selfishness and sin, we become.*

Bill Bratt, Portsmouth, Ohio Email: We have a special relationship with our mate. Our mate should be our very best friend. Go to the games with them. Attend their school plays and year end awards programs. We need to spend time with our children. Go eat a meal together. Go to a concert together or to the park with a picnic lunch and play together. We can share experiences with others by working together or playing sports together. Friends talk with each other. Friends talk about their hopes, their dreams and their fears. The Bible says in: We can see it, in how the Corporations treat their members. We can see it, in how members treat each other. We can see it, in how the members of one Corporation will treat the members of another Corporation. We need to respect each other. We all need to be careful in what we say to each other and about each other. Then they talk and we listen. Our relationship with God is similar. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. We need to ask ourselves: Are our prayers fervent and effective? One way to be more effective in prayer is to spend more time on our knees. One way to be more fervent is to realize that God is our friend. He is not out to get us. He only wants what is best for us. God wants to be our friend. One trait of a good friend is the ability to be a good listener. God is a very good listener. God wants you to share your successes and your failures with Him. Also talk to God about your blessings and the good things that are happening in your life. We should talk to God about things before we do them. Are you going to buy a car or a house? Talk to God about it. God is your financial partner. Pray to God about major decisions. God wants us to talk to Him. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Notice in verse 6 that it says that God will reward you openly if we pray in a proper manner, in secret not to be seen of men. It is interesting that the disciples lived and walked with Jesus and yet they asked him to teach them how to pray. Put it into your own words. How should we talk to God? We should talk to God as we would talk to our own human father. We should to talk to God in a natural way, not in a monotone voice. Talk to God as you would talk to your very best friend. You respect your friends. You would not want to do anything to offend them. Talk to God as if He would answer immediately. As you come before God in prayer, be aware of whom your are praying to. This being that you are praying to is the eternal Creator God who has all power and glory. Always have a humble attitude in prayer. He is the creator and we are the created. He is the potter and we are the clay. Realize that you are coming before the very throne of the ruler of the universe! Always remember that God Is Listening! How can we build on this relationship with God? Spend more time on your knees praying. The Psalms are filled with praises to God. Read the Psalms as you are praying to inspire you in how to praise God. Read the Psalms to see how David praised God. Read a song from your church Hymnal. This may inspire you and give you ideas as to how to pray to God. Thank God for your blessings. We talk and they listen. Bibles, concordances, and other Bible helps are moderately priced. You can get Bible software for your computer and do all kinds of word searches and compare scriptures of different translations. There are web sites on the internet that has Bible software that you can use that is free of charge. There is all kinds of Bible articles and literature on the internet that you can print out and read. We in the Church of God live in the era of the sermon audio tapes. There are so many audio tapes around that we could probably listen to a different tape for 24 hours a day for 5 years without repeating any. Even with all of the tapes and religious literature around we still need to stick our noses in the Bible. We need to know what is in the Bible. We need to know that we know! If anyone questions us, then we can say: I have read it for myself and I know what it says! We must be ready to give an answer to every man that asks us a reason of the hope that is in us 1 Pet. We must study the Bible to show ourselves approved unto God 2 Tim 2:

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We need to prove all things and stand fast to that which is good 1 Thes. Are we taking the time daily to let God talk to us? It seems that people today are afraid to be alone with their thoughts. Usually as soon as we enter our house the TV gets turned on. It is easier to turn on the tube than turn on our minds. We live in the age of the paid entertainer and the hired specialist who can provide the services we are unable to perform for ourselves, but this is also the age in which we can even become accustomed to letting others do our thinking for us. We all need to learn the Art of Meditation. How long can you meditate and stay focused on a subject without your mind wondering? For most of us, it is probably just a few seconds. When we meditate, we need to roll it over in our mind. We need to bounce it off of the ten commandments. It takes real concentration and practice to stay focused on a certain topic. Meditation is simply taking a certain theme, problem or scripture and dwelling on it -- asking why, how, when, where and what is the end result -- then determining whether or not that is the result you want. We need to ask, would God be pleased with our conclusion? We need to meditate on the things of God. Think about how great God is. He created the universe and all things that are within it. Think about John 3: Think about how loving and kind God is. Think about how gracious and merciful God is.

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### Chapter 9 : Church and Christian Fellowship - a Bible study | Christian Faith

*Our so-called personal relationship with Jesus is indeed with his person—his body of which all other believers are a part. Fingers don't have a relationship with Jesus apart from the hand, the hand from the arm, the arm from the shoulder, and so on.*

On earth as it is in heaven. The first two words of this model prayer tell us a great deal about relationships. First, notice that Jesus starts out with the word our, not the word my. The reason is that God is not only the father of the person praying, but of others also. Note that the relationship is not that of a wife to a husband, two people dating one another, or a neighbor to another neighbor. It is a child to a father relationship. They might call him creator or god perhaps, but not Father. If you would like to find out more, click on the link below. Click here to learn how to get right with God. Once the relationship is started by getting right with God, you need to make the second step and develop your new relationship into a personal relationship. A good way of showing what a personal relationship is can be illustrated by showing you what it is not. However, if the church, priests, Mary, and saints are between you and God, you do not have a personal relationship with God at all. Developing the Relationship Fortunately, the Bible reveals that none of the things mentioned in the preceding paragraph are needed to have a relationship with God. A time will come when we will literally meet God. We do it by following a two step communication process. The Bible tells us that God listens to our prayers, and we can use the model prayer above to get us started. You will notice it contains four parts: If God is really God, He does deserve our praise and support. Further, as our Father, we can expect Him to help us in our lives. By the way, God will not grant every request. As children may not understand why their parents will not let them play in the street, there will be times we do not understand why God does not seem to answer our prayers. In time, we will add more information about answered prayer, but for now you should know that God will give you what is best for you, long term. Read the story of Joseph, which starts in tragedy Genesis chapter 37 but ends in triumph Genesis chapter 45 to get a glimpse of how this is possible. Although not part of the model prayer, when God does answer our prayers, it makes sense to thank God for what He has done. We do not like ungrateful children, and there is no reason to believe that God appreciates our being ungrateful to Him. By the way, many people have learned that keeping a written record of what they have asked for is helpful. We also need to ask God to forgive our sins. Then once you confess your sin, do not do it again. This is where the request to keep us from temptation comes in. We realize that your first contact with the Bible may have been confusing, but clicking on the link below should clear things up for you. References All references are taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church This is not meant to be a complete list, but includes enough items to document the official church position. This Church, constituted and organized as a society in the present world, subsists in subsistit in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him. It was to the apostolic college alone, of which Peter is the head, that we believe that our Lord entrusted all the blessings of the New Covenant, in order to establish on earth the one Body of Christ into which all those should be fully incorporated who belong in any way to the People of God. God above confirms what priests do here below. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. We give ourselves over to her now, in the Today of our lives. May she welcome us as our mother at the hour of our passing to lead us to her son, Jesus, in paradise. They are truly immense, unfathomable, and even pristine in their value before God. In the treasury, too, are the prayers and good works of all the saints, all those who have followed in the footsteps of Christ the Lord and by his grace have made their lives holy and carried out the mission the Father entrusted to them. In this way they attained their own salvation and at the same time cooperated in saving their brothers in the unity of the Mystical Body. Printed copies of this article may be circulated if the article is reproduced in its entirety, along with this copyright notice. You may not charge for, request a donation for, or seek reimbursement from anyone for such copies. All information contained in Clarifying Christianity is a

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