

Awesome Relationships



Part # 4:

Cultivating an Awesome Relationship with God

March 3, 2019

Wes Porter

Life is filled with a **variety** of relationships. From the moment we are born until the moment we die, we are constantly entering into and involving ourselves in relationships with other people.

Good relationships don't just happen by accident; there are **attitudes** we must own and actions we must take in order to **ensure** good relationships.

Embracing relationships by God's design provide an avenue for **responding** to His grace.

Sincere loving relationships should be the **hallmark** of every believer.

God-honoring encouragement helps to **heal** our hurts through embracing genuine relationships.

The Need to Know God

Knowledge of God is part of His perfect plan for humankind:

Acts 17:26-27 *God began by making one person, and from him came all the different people who live everywhere in the world. God decided exactly when and where they must live. ²⁷ God wanted them to look for him and perhaps search all around for him and find him, though he is not far from any of us:*

Those seeking to know God are faced with the many aspects of a relationship. For example, God desires us to know Him as...

...Heavenly **Father**.
...**Creator**.
...**Redeemer**.
...**Provider**.
...**Savior**.

But the most shocking (to some) is this: God wants you for a **friend**.

James 4:8 *Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.*

In the beginning Adam and Eve enjoyed the perfect relationship with God:

It was free of...

...**religion**.
...**rituals**.
...**rules**...except one.

Even when sin threatened to ruin His plan forever, God provided the perfect remedy in Christ:

Romans 5:10-11 *Even when we were God's enemies, he made peace with us, because his Son died for us. Yet something even greater than friendship is ours. Now that we are at peace with God, we will be saved by his Son's life.¹¹ And in addition to everything else, we are happy because God sent our Lord Jesus Christ to make peace with us.*

Building a Friendship With God

Five important steps:

1. Make knowing God your number one **priority**.

Philippians 3:8 *I consider everything else worthless because I'm much better off knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. It's because of him that I think of everything as worthless. I threw it all away in order to gain Christ.*

We are as close to God as we **choose** to be.

2. Slow down and be **quiet**.

Psalm 46:10 *Be quiet and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth.*

Time with God is just as much about **quality** as **quantity**.

3. Decide the friendship your **value** most.

James 4:4-5 *Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵ Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.*

We don't have time for everyone to be our **closest** friend; we do need to decide if God is one of them.

4. Maintain a **constant** conversation.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 *Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this.*

We can't pick and choose what we want to **share** with God.

5. Trust God in your **pain**.

Psalm 55:22 *Give all your cares to the Lord and He will give you strength. He will never let those who are right with Him be shaken.*

Pain is the **fuel** of passion.

Turning Point...

Three important steps to being friends with God:

1. Be **honest**.
2. Be **open**.
3. Be **willing**.