

The Relationship of Jesus Christ to the Believer (2)

Introduction

- A. In our creation God made us for Himself, Isaiah 43:21. This means, in part, that God Himself would be our resource of personal fulfillment. We were made to find in Him our basic enjoyment and satisfaction.
- B. The Fall and our own sin has ruined this relationship. Today, the non-Christian and even some Christians live without a significant amount of personal fulfillment. Purposelessness and meaninglessness are characteristics of our age.
- C. Through believing in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and learning how to live the Christian life an individual may again find the fulfillment he needs. The Bible reminds us that God Himself is our authority, enablement, motivation, goal in life, as well as the source of joy and peace through daily fellowship.
- D. In order to live in fellowship with God it is helpful to see how the Scripture describes the relationship of Christ and the believer.

I. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Potter to the Clay, Romans 9:20,21.

Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall, the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why has thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?

Observation: This verse reminds us of the sovereign goodness of God. While there are many mysteries in this great truth - the Bible teaches us that every good thing that has come into our lives is due to the grace of God. We are Christians only because God has chosen us. We may not, as the text states, criticize God.

II. We are Related to Jesus Christ as Hope to the Hopeless, Romans. 9:20,21.

Now the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Observation: This verse is the conclusion to the practical part of Romans. If we seriously try to live the Christian life we are promised that God will fill us with His joy, peace and hope. He is the God of Hope. We too often live with an attitude of hopelessness.

III. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Employer to the Employee, II Cor. 6:1.

We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

Observation: If we did not have the Bible, the human race could not pool their imagination and come up with the idea that a God, such as the True and Living God, would ever love and die for such sinners as ourselves. However, He did just that. But, now this great truth, that we can be of service to Him - goes beyond even that. It is amazing but true, He has called us to serve Him. We are workers together with God.

IV. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Father to the Child, II Cor. 6:17,18.

Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Observation: When God describes Himself as a Father, He means by that term that He can be and He wants to be to us all that a good earthly father could be - only infinitely more. He is all-knowing, all-loving, all-powerful, etc. We must carefully choose to respond to Him and not live as a rebellious, unthankful, spoiled child.

V. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Priest to the Suppliant, Hebrews U:1U-16.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus The Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Observation: No man can stand before God alone. Jesus Christ came into the world to be our Priest. He offered up Himself as our Sacrifice. In His Resurrection and Ascension He entered into His priestly work far all those who believe upon Him. He is praying for us and we are here exhorted to come to Him in prayer to receive mercy and grace.

VI. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Advocate to the Defendant, I John 2:1,2.

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous. And He is the propitiation for our sins and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Observation: An advocate is a representative. That is what Jesus Christ is to the believer. He lived, died, arose from the grave, ascended and is praying for us as our Representative. Without His finished work on the Cross and His continual intercession no one would get to Heaven.

VII. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Faithful Witness to the Enquirer, Rev. 1:5.

And from Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful witness and the first begotten of the dead and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

Observation: For Jesus Christ to be the faithful witness indicates His office of Prophet. He has revealed God to us. He is the Truth (John 14:6) and the light of the World (John 8:12). We must refuse our natural tendency to believe we are the final authority.

VIII. We are Related to Jesus Christ as He that Hath the Keys to the Bound, Rev. 1:18.

I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death.

Observation: Without Jesus Christ all mankind would die and enter Hell. He has made it possible to be free from the guilt of sin, free from the penalty of Hell and death. Jesus Christ has the keys.

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