

## The Relationship of Jesus Christ to the Believer

### Introduction

- A. Some of the most important things in our lives are our relationships.
- B. Among all these there is one that is preeminent. It is the amazing relationship that a Christian has with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. There are many illustrations in the Bible concerning this great truth. To understand these will bring assurance and instruction into our lives.

### I. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Counsellor to the Counsellee, Isaiah 9:6.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Observation: What a privilege and comfort to know that the Christian may ask counsel of the eternal Son of God, Jesus Christ. The Fall of Man and our sin has caused us to lose the knowledge of God and the wisdom given in creation. Jesus Christ has come to be our Counsellor. His counsels are faithfulness and truth (Isaiah 25:1).

### II. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Husband to the Wife, Isaiah 54:5.

For thy Maker is thine husband, the Lord of Hosts is His name, and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel, the God of the whole earth shall He be called.

Observation: As the husband will choose his wife and assume all responsibility for her - so Jesus Christ has chosen the believer and assumed all the obligations of that relationship. Primary in this spiritual union are the virtues of love, trust and the experience of fellowship.

### III. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Savior to the Lost, Luke 19:10.

For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Observation: The term "lost" is a graphic description of the individual who has never received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord\* It refers to the condition of separation from God and the possibility of leaving this world, at death, to be subject to the wrath of God forever. Jesus Christ, however, came to save those who are lost. In giving His life as our substitute, the "lost" may be "saved" through receiving Him as Savior and Lord (John 1:12).

### IV. We are Related to Jesus Christ as Food to the Hungry, John 6:35.

And Jesus said unto them, I am the Bread of Life, He that cometh to Me shall never hunger and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.

Observation: Among the physical needs food and water appear to be primary. The promise of Jesus Christ is that He will be to us as our food and drink. When food is present, the hungry need only eat. So it is in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

V. We are Related to Jesus Christ as Light to the Sojourner, John 8:12.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world, he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Observation: All of us have had the experience of groping along in darkness. At such a time light brings a welcome relief. Jesus Christ has promised that His followers will never walk in darkness. We may have such an Illumination that it could be called "the light of life".

VI. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Shepherd to the Sheep, John 10:11,27,28.

I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep . . . My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me. And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.

Observation: The obligation of the shepherd is to care for his flock. He leads them to pasture and water, he provides a safe shelter for them at night, he dresses their wounds, and protects them from wild animals. All that the shepherd could be to his flock and much more - is to be found in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

VII. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the Seed to the Harvest, John 12:24.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Observation: Here Jesus Christ reminds us that His death will produce a crop. He likens Himself to the seed that is planted and gives itself up to produce a harvest. The Christian is the result of Jesus Christ giving His life for us. Our union with Jesus Christ is as intimate and profound as the relationship between the seed and the harvest.

VIII. We are Related to **Jesus** Christ as the **Master** to the Servant, John 13:13,17.

Ye call Me Master and Lord and ye say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet . . . If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Observation: Jesus Christ is our Master but He does not rule by force but by love. He illustrated His loving concern for His disciples by washing their feet. The sovereign Lord of all the universes and the angelic host was willing to become our sin bearer in His Crucifixion. God has humbled Himself and yet we, His servants, are still proud.

IX. We are Related to Jesus Christ as the **Vine** to the Branch, John 15:5.

I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in Me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without **Me** ye can do nothing.

Observation: As the vine Jesus Christ has done everything for us. The vine produces the branch, feeds the branch, upholds the branch, and bears fruit through the branch. The only obligation of the believer is to "abide" or to drink deeply of the provision found in the vine. Our fruitbearing will bring glory to God.