

"Our 5 Relationships with God "

Good morning. Grab some coffee or tea and let's begin.

Last week we introduced God's Prime Directive – what God is doing in the world. We learned that he is creating a unique People for himself – a People called by his Name – a People who recognize and reflect his glory – a People in whom he comes to abide now and forever.

To that end, God created us in his own image, to be able to have relationship with him.

Over the years I've thought a great deal about what it means to have relationship with God. I'm sure there are many ways to understand the multiple aspects of relationship with him.

I've tried to express my understanding in a simple teaching I'll call "Our 5 Relationships with God."

I hope this 'little package' will help you better understand your own relationship with God – and maybe help you help others come into fuller relationship with him.

Today I'll briefly introduce the 5 Relationships – then over the next few weeks we'll discuss each one in more detail:

- Our 1st Relationship with God is CREATED BEING (us) to CREATOR (God). God made us. We are part of his larger creation. We are unique -- designed with the ability to know God. To have relationship with him. We start with this confession, "There are two things I know: There is GOD. I'm not him!"
- Our 2nd Relationship with God is SERVANT to MASTER. We do not live independently from the sovereignty of God. We live under his authority. He faithfully cares for us as his People. We faithfully serve at the pleasure of the king.
- Our 3rd Relationship is FRIEND to FRIEND. One of the most astonishing things about God is that he wants to be friends. He wants us to know each other – trust each other -- spend time together – do things together – share freely – be slow to take offense and quick to forgive.
- Our 4th Relationship is CHILD to FATHER. Friends are good. But friendships may come and go. Family remains. God wants us to be far more than servants - he wants us to be his children – his family. God loves his children. And in return we love him.
- Finally, our 5th Relationship with God is that of PLAYER to COACH. We are created beings – servants – friends – and sons chosen to be active players on God's Team. We are players on Team Jesus which committed to accomplishing God's Prime Directive. God is our coach whose Holy Spirit trains and directs his People – his Team. He is our coach who leads us to the Championship of the Ages!

These five relationships are functional. They are dynamic. They are integrated. They are important. They characterize my individual relationship with God. They mark us, together with a common identity, as the People of God.

Only in Christ Jesus can we function in the 5 Relationships with God. Only can his People who are his created beings – his servants – his friends – his children – and his teammates – live this way. The Good News is that God invites everyone in the world into the 5 Relationships with Him.

That is why we witness. That is why we preach. That is why we pray for the sick. That is why we cast out demons. That is why we forgive. That is why we love the unlovely. All so that others may enter into the 5 Relationships with God. That others may know the God of the Bible as Creator – Master – Friend – Father – and Coach.

The next five weeks we will unpackage these 5 relationships with God. I pray that you will come to full maturity in Christ Jesus as you develop each relationship to the fullest.

God bless you-

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas". The script is cursive and fluid.

Douglas Van Devender- Team Jesus Ministries International