

# Our 5<sup>th</sup> Relationship with God: “Teammates- on God’s Team”

Good morning!

Previously, we have discussed four of the five relationships with God which he offers us in his Son Jesus:

- Creatures created in God’s image
- Bond-slaves in loving obedience
- Friends in close companionship
- Eternal Sons of the Father

We complete our study this week by discussing our fifth relationship with God: TEAMMATES on GOD’S TEAM.

Jesus on the cross saved us from sin, Satan, and death.

He saved us for intimate relationship with the Father via the Holy Spirit, for eternal life, and to join Jesus in his ongoing ministry.

*John 14:12a- “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do....”*

And what is that ministry of Jesus? We look to the Mission Statement of Jesus in Luke 4:16-19 to find the answer:

*Luke 4:16 And [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor (or grace).”*

So, Jesus calls each of us to do his ministry along with him (via his Holy Spirit) who manifests the presence, power, purity, purpose, and love of the Father in five ways :

- Proclaiming that God’s kingdom is open for business – everyone is welcome to enter – the poor are especially invited,
- Healing the physically sick,
- Healing broken and wounded hearts,
- Peeling the Darkness off those who want to be free, and
- Moving all God’s People from Old Covenant religion to New Covenant relationships.

We are called to live our lives in companionship with Jesus – doing what we see him doing – speaking what we hear him saying. And this is NOT a solitary calling. Oh, no. Jesus calls me to play on his Team – to be a good teammate -- to serve cooperatively with other believers by contributing my calling, my spiritual giftedness, my talents, my experience, my training, my financial resources so that we can do the mighty works of Jesus together.

Paul challenges ALL believers:

*2 Corinthians 5:19 God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

Jesus said it this way:

*Matthew 4:19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.*

Jesus calls us to follow him – to abide with him (**John 15:1-17**) – to serve with him (**John 14:12a**).

The God of creation has come to earth in the person of his Son Jesus to offer you relationship – five rich levels of relationship:

- Creatures created in God's image
- Bond-slaves in loving obedience
- Friends in close companionship
- Eternal Sons of the Father, and
- Teammates playing on God's Team.

**ASK YOURSELF:**

Have I been born again? (Necessary to activate relationship with God.)

Have I been filled with the Holy Spirit? (Necessary to do the ministry of Jesus.)

Am I enjoying the fulness of relationship with God? (Our highest calling in life.)

Am I participating in the ministry of Jesus? (Jesus' expectation for me.)

Am I playing on God's Team together with God's People? (Doing with others what I couldn't possibly do alone.)

**NEXT WEEK:** More about the Jesus-Who-Is.

God bless you-



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