
Communicating with God

Romans 8:12-17

LAST WEEK IN REVIEW: When we ask for forgiveness and come clean before God, we provide a platform for a strong and ongoing relationship with God. What specific areas last week challenged you?

“Full Steam Ahead”

Remember how it felt to fall in love? Feelings ran high. You always wanted to be with her. And you didn't seem to mind that she had caused some changes in your life. You cleaned up your talk. You shaved a little closer. You opened car doors. Your dreams seemed to revolve around her and what might become of your life together. For the first time, your focus was on something more than a goal. It was on a relationship! And though you weren't good at it, you sure were eager to learn. You were willing to give it a try. That's the way it should be with God.

Reflection

Because of the cross, we can move beyond religious rituals to a relationship with God. We now have the right to call Almighty God “Abba.” That's the word Jesus used in his more intimate moments with the Father (Mark 14.36).

We must examine worship, prayer and his Word, in light of the promised relationship—not a ritual. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would come to help us and to teach us as a friend (John 14.26).

Will we let him?

What is the key to relationship with God?

Accountability and Application

The key to any healthy relationship is mutually honest and respectful communication. And, the command to be filled with the Holy Spirit means that we are not passive. We are always actively seeking relationship. We do this through worship, as we talk to him in prayer, and as he talks to us through his Word. Isn't that the way it is with any relationship? As we work together in honest dialogue, the relationship grows.

PRAYER: Lord, thank you for “sonship” and for the privilege to move beyond rituals into a meaningful relationship with you. Forgive me for not relating to you in the past and help me to do so.

Romans 8:12-17 (NIV)

¹²Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.