

GETTING ALONG WITH GOD

Matthew 22:37-38 1 John 2:15-16

Introduction: Getting on the "good" side of God is what every person who knows about God wants. Strange but it is God who takes the initiative of establishing a relationship with us. Once we have responded to God's initial invitation of believing in Jesus, God then takes another step of establishing that relationship with us by indwelling us with His Holy Spirit. Notice that it was God who started things, it wasn't us. Nobody can figure out how to get along with God on his/her own for none of us can begin to grasp the greatness of God, therefore any relationship with God has got to be done His way. A relationship with God doesn't just happen! If we want to continue that relationship, that fellowship that God started then again, we must do things God's way.

I. GOD WANTS OUR TOTAL, COMPLETE LOVE

1. If we will love God as He wants, then we will be obedient to Him.
 - If we do love God as He wants, then we will also love all the others who also love Him.
 - If we love God as He wants, then we will be able to even love our enemies.
2. If we are not careful there are some things that can interrupt our relationship/fellowship with God.
 - Whatever we might let slip in between us and God such as money, things, our own goals, etc.
 - Whenever that happens, God is aware of it and knows He is not first in our love anymore.
3. Whenever our relationship with God is interrupted it also affects others around us.
 - We become edgy, short tempered and disagreeable to name some of the side effects.

II. IF WE WANT TO GET ALONG WITH GOD, WE MUST SUBMIT TO HIS RULE

1. God requires our absolute, total loyalty to Jesus' being director of our lives.
 - If we continue to want to do things as we always have, our way, then our relationship with God will be broken and we cannot have with God what God wants.
2. There are problems and situations in life that most usually start because we have broken our relationship/fellowship with God.
 - Disobedience to what God wants breaks our relationship/fellowship with God.
 - Asserting our own way or allowing anyone else to run our lives will break that fellowship.
 - Anytime our relationship with God is broken, strangely it causes broken relationships with others.
3. *1 Corinthians 1-3:* There was a broken fellowship within the Corinthian Church:
 - Some wanted a certain pastor, others wanted somebody else.
 - They were out of fellowship with God therefore they were out of fellowship with one another.
4. We cannot have a relationship/fellowship with God as well as with others if we become unwilling to give our total devotion and loyalty to the Lordship of Jesus only.

5. Who is really running your life? If it is not the Lord Jesus, then your relationship with God is not as it should be, it is not as He wants.

III. A RELATIONSHIP/FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD CAN BE EXPERIENCED ONLY FIRST HAND

1. There is no such thing as you having a relationship/fellowship with God through somebody else.
 - God allows no substitutes, therefore you cannot rely upon ANYBODY else's relationship with God to count as yours. God wants YOU to get to know Him.
2. Of course there is always a threat to your relationship/fellowship with God.
 - Again it is up to us as whether anything or anybody comes between us and God.
 - A relationship/fellowship with God must be a First Hand relationship/fellowship.
 - Each of us must have our own private relationship/fellowship with God.
 - Whenever our relationship is interrupted we tend to become passive about spiritual things, drop out, quit caring about the Church and just grow cold.
 - Nothing can replace your own personal, needed relationship/fellowship with God.
 - Perhaps some need to stop attending all the seminars on how to do this or that and begin to experience God for themselves...stop hearing, reading about everybody else's.

IV. TO GET ALONG WITH GOD, WE MUST COMPLETELY TRUST IN GOD

1. *Isaiah 31:2; John 15:5*: Whenever we place our trust in anything or anybody else other than God that will break our relationship/fellowship with God. Such as:
 - Our own selves - our abilities - our resources
 - Others - their abilities - their resources
 - Programs - methods
2. Nothing is wrong with Godly programs and Godly people being used for our benefit - BUT - anytime we begin to trust them more than our trust in God, our relationship/fellowship with God is broken.
3. Our greatest source of help in maintaining our relationship/fellowship with God is the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit indwells us and knows us intimately.
 - The Holy Spirit knows what God wants of us.
 - The Holy Spirit can enable us to do whatever it is that God wants.
 - The Holy Spirit will tell us whenever we are going the wrong direction.

CONCLUSION:

1. A continuing relationship/fellowship with God is essential to our Christian life.
2. Things are all around us that can cause that relationship/fellowship with God to be broken.
3. Love, obedience, trust and a personal relationship with God is absolutely essential.
4. So, how is your relationship/fellowship with God right now? Need working on?
5. What do you think God wants you to do to improve your relationship/fellowship with Him?