

The Power of a Relationship

www.cvillechurch.com

Introduction: God created man as a social being that must form relationships.

- A. God created man alone to make this very point. **(Gen 2:18-20)**
 - 1. Men often deny their need and think they are better alone.
 - 2. Relationships however are complex and need to be maintained.
- B. The most important relationship we have is God.
 - 1. God often uses human relationships to point out what He expects of us.
 - 2. We are the “bride of Christ.” **(Eph 5:30-32; Rev 21:2, 9)**
 - 3. What is the nature of this relationship? How should others relationships be handled in light of this one?

I. How does one sustain and maintain a relationship with the God of heaven?

- A. Man must listen and seek. **(Heb 11:6)**
 - 1. Man must get out of himself and look to another.
 - 2. Our God has promised to respond to those who “seek Him.”
 - 3. God through David often instructed the people about this. **(1 Chron 16:10-11)**
- B. Man must pursue those things that are attractive to God.
 - 1. What does God want of me? He wants me to be like Him. **(Hos 2:19-20)**
 - 2. Over and over God tells me that He wants my heart. **(Micah 6:8)**
 - 3. There are opposites of these things. God “abhors” them. **(Prov 6:16-19)**
- C. God expects man to build a heart based on His written word.
 - 1. This is a major test of our relationship to God. Many think affirming the relationship in words is all that is needed. **(Jn 8:31-32)**
 - 2. This word would develop character within a man. He will act on principle and not on an inward whim.
 - 3. What we learn here will be the basis of any good relationship.
 - 4. God’s covenant with man can be likened to the seriousness of our marriage covenant. God will not share us! **(2 Cor 11:1-4)**
- D. God expects to hear from us in worship.
 - 1. Why do I come before God? **(Psa 42:1-2)**
 - 2. This special focus on God allows us to be molded into His image.
 - 3. What happens if I stop worshipping?
 - 4. What happens to any relationship that is not maintained? **(1 Cor 11:27-30)**

II. Satan’s use of relationships

- A. The most powerful weapon in Satan’s arsenal is relationships. **(Mt 10:21-22; Jn 9:22)**
 - 1. The blind man had unassailable evidence and reasoning but the others were not operating on that basis!
 - 2. The most common argument I hear when people are honest enough to say it is: “These are my family/friends/church member and I will not go against them.”
- B. Consider the actions of Korah against Moses and Aaron. **(Num 16:1-3)**
 - 1. Korah had an ability to influence men and motivate them.
 - 2. He was of the tribe of Levi and had an important responsibility before God.

Instead he used those family ties and loyalty to create an uprising.

C. Korah appears to be appealing to a proper issue of principle. (**Num 16:3**)

1. Carnal people can quote scripture and appear to be righteous.
2. That mask will disappear when someone asks hard questions. Those who have been “trained” in this relationship know better than to ever do that.
3. I have seen that a “bad report” of another is easily believed by those whose loyalty is to a human relationship. (**Prov 18:8; 26:21**)
4. Once anger is kindled then they will fight to the end for their “just cause.” (**Prov 18:19**)
5. What does a spiritual man do? (**Prov 11:13**)

D. What did Korah fail to consider?

1. What did God think of Moses? (**Num 12:3; Mt 5:5**)
2. Why was Korah able to succeed in these false charges?
 - a. Because men in authority are easy targets. (**2 Pt 2:10-11, Jude 8-11**)
 - b. Because he operated behind the scenes until he had a faction.
Moses never had a fair hearing among Korah's followers.
 - c. He made it an issue of being “left out.” This approach some call “common sense.” (**2 Pt 2:19**)
3. The root of the issue was: "Who should be priest before God?" (**Num 16:9-10**)
4. How does a spiritual person handle being "left out?" (**Phil 2:3-4**)
5. Korah was infected by pride. Because of this he was not content with the blessings God had given him. (**Prov 6:16-18**)

III. The constant temptation towards wrong relationships

A. Once moved by a false loyalty to a relationship men find it difficult to escape it.

1. What did Korah’s followers do?
2. The leaders died. (**Num 16:28-35**)
3. Did the people learn from this? NO!
 - a. I cannot grasp the power that Satan had over these people. (**Num 16:41, 44**)
 - b. I have seen men with former good reputations get away with outrageous conduct. How can those be among the people of God.

B. Consider how Paul used this wrong sense of loyalty against his opponents.

(**Acts 23:6-9**)

1. This is a loyalty that is true in denominationalism today.
2. We can falsely have this king of thinking towards a local church.

IV. There is a proper place for good relationships among Christians

A. When God is first we will pursue only those things that help us go to heaven.

1. Ask Peter about Paul’s love for him. (**Gal 2:11-13**)
2. Are you a real friend and brother?

B. Our needs of love will be met by those who love God. (**1 Cor 13:4-7**)

Conclusion: Where is your loyalty?

- A. God will test us.
- B. Will you pass the test?