



We are Glad You're Here!

Today's Message:

"God is Pursuing a Love Relationship with Us"

Matthew 22:37-38, "Jesus replied: ' "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment.' "

What are you becoming in Christ?

II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old is gone, behold all things are becoming new."

Philippians 3:4-14, "⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

1. Now watch as Paul begins to talk... "If anyone has a right to brag, it would be me." - PAUL

⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Watch the argument Paul is making unfold...

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted **loss for Christ**. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish,

2. The Greek word for rubbish is _____.

...that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

3. Our relationship with Christ is the most valuable thing in this life.

¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the **fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

4. "fellowship of His sufferings..."

Paul pressed toward the Goal

¹² Not that I have **already attained**, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to **have apprehended**; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead"

5. If Paul hadn't attained or apprehended all levels of Spiritual Growth, it should be understood that we won't either. We will always be growing in our relationship with Christ.

In what ways has God shown His love for us?

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That whoever believes in Him would not perish, but would have eternal life."

Romans 5:6-8, “⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ **For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,** much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

6. In order for us to understand the depth of God’s love, we must understand Romans 5

King Solomon’s intimate relationship with God

I Kings 3:5-13, “⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask! What shall I give you?”

⁶ And Solomon said: “You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. ⁷ Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I *am* a little child; I do not know *how* to go out or come in. ⁸ **And Your servant is in the midst of Your people** whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. ⁹ Therefore give to Your servant **an understanding heart** to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”

¹⁰ The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹ **Then God said to him:** “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, ¹² behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. ¹³ And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. “

7. Take note how intimate King Solomon’s relationship with God was...

How do we apply this message to us today?