

Your Relationship with Christ
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We've been taking some time these past few weeks to talk about Jesus Christ, who He is, and your relationship with Him, and your relationship with Christ is your most important relationship. And today, I want to talk more about what this relationship looks like.

First, let's talk about your knowledge of Christ. And we are not just talking about head knowledge, but about heart knowledge, about having this relationship with Christ.

- Eph. 1:15-17 – You're to pray about growing in our knowledge of Christ, and that means growing in our relationship with Him. And when we talk about knowing Christ, it means knowing who He is, that He's your Lord, Savior, Friend and Brother, and the coming King.
- It also means knowing His character. Matt. 11:28 says Jesus is gentle and humble. Phil. 2:1 says Jesus is loving, affectionate, and compassionate. Jer. 9:23-24 says Jesus is just, and righteous. And Rev. 7:12 says that Jesus is wise and powerful.

This is so important that you know Christ. Phil. 3:10, Jer. 9:23-24, Eph. 4:12-13

Second, you are to love Christ. And knowing Christ is the key to loving Christ. If you truly know Christ, know what He's like and what He did for you, then you'll love Him.

- Eph. 5:1 – *“Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.”* And Christ greatly loved you by dying on the cross for you, and He loves you now by continually praying for you, and by being compassionate, kind, and forgiving to you. Jesus loves you all the time, and you're to love Him all the time.
- Mark 12:30. And you love Him by thanking Him, praising Him, honoring Him, and by obeying Him. John 14:21, 23

Third, you're to keep growing in Christ. Ep. 2:19-20, 4:15-16. Your relationship with Christ is not supposed to stay the same, you don't want it to get stale or stagnant. You're to keep growing in Christ. You're to keep getting to know Him, to keep loving Him. I think of my wife and I, and how by God's grace we keep growing in our relationship with each other. And so too with Jesus Christ, you are to get to know Him better and better. John 15:11

Fourth, you're to be trusting Christ. John 14:1 - *“Do not let your heart be troubled, believe in God, believe also in Me.”* You're to have faith in Christ, to keep believing in Him.

- Now God designs your life so you need Him, so you have to depend on Him and Christ, for Their love, power, leading, and wisdom. And if you don't, you'll be troubled, anxious, and discouraged. Matt. 6:27-30 – little faith. Matt. 8:5-10, 13 – great faith.
- Now 15:1-8 talks about abiding in Christ, and if you're abiding in Christ, then you're trusting Him, you're relying on Him and on His power and love.

Fifth, you're to be walking with Christ. Ep. 4:1, Col. 1:10, 2:6. Now what can we say about this word walking? 1st, there's a purpose for walking, you have a reason to walk, you have a

destination. If you go shopping, you need to be walking in the store and getting what you want. So too, walking with Christ is a purposeful walk. Enoch - Gen. 5:24, Jude 14-15

2nd, you go step by step. When you are walking, you go step by step, one step after another. And every day, you're walking, you're taking physical steps. Counters. In your Christian life, you're spiritually walking, you're taking all these spiritual steps. Abe - Gen. 12-25
- 3rd, walking implies continuous action - you keep taking steps, you keep walking, and you're not stopping every few minutes. And so too, the Christian life isn't starting and stopping, you're to continue walking every day, week by week, year by year, until you get to heaven.

4th, we're talking about walking with Christ. Now we often walk someplace by ourselves, but we're talking about the Christian walk, and as a Christian, you're not to walk by yourself, you're not to be a loner, you need to walk with Jesus Christ. Now we know Christ wants to walk with you, but you need to want to walk with Him, for He won't force you. And you should want to walk with Christ, the One who loves you so much, for walking by yourself is a lonely, miserable, and fruitless experience.

Now walking with Christ relates to what we've talked about so far. It means you're getting to know Christ better, for as you're walking with Christ, you're learning more about Him.
- It means you love Christ, and you love walking with Him. This means there's a relationship, a friendship, a real desire to walk with Him.
- It means you are growing in Christ – that is, walking with Christ makes you a more mature Christian, a stronger Christian, a grownup Christian.

It means you trust Christ. You trust Christ, for He's leading you on this walk. I don't mean that He's walking ahead of you, for He's walking with you, and you're trusting Him to show you the way to go, and when He says go this way or that way, then you do what He says. 2 Cor. 5:7 says you're not to walk by how you feel, but by faith, you're to keep trusting Christ and God's word, depending on Him as you go through the day. Matt. 11:28-29

And this means, like I said before, that you're walking with a purpose, you're going someplace spiritually speaking. It means you are taking one step after another.
- And walking with Christ means there's communication - Christ is talking to you, and you're talking to Christ. And this means there is unity - you and Christ are united. Amos 3:3 - *"Do two men walk together unless they are in agreement."*

Psalm 119:1, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 128:1. When we walk with Christ, we're walking in accordance with God's word. And one way you know you are walking with Christ is when you're living by God's word, living according to the truth that's in His word. So make it your goal to be walking with Christ day by day, to be walking with Christ in the morning, and in the afternoon, and in the evening. And as you do this, you will be a very joyful, encouraged, thankful, and fruitful Christian.

5th, it means you're working for Christ, you're doing the work Christ wants you to do.

Rm. 1:1 - "*Paul was a bond-servant of Christ.*" Paul calls himself a bond-servant of Christ, and the Greek word here is "*doulos*", which is also translated as slave.

Paul saw Christ as his master and himself as Christ's slave. A slave was to do whatever his master told him to do with no questions asked. Paul wasn't a servant, a day laborer who'd work 9-5, but rather one who'd serve the Lord all the time, 24-7.

Col. 3:24-25 - "*It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*" This goes along with the last vs., but it emphasizes the point that you're serving Christ. As a Christian, you're serving Christ. Yes, you may have a job, and have an employer, and you need to do what he says, but most importantly, you're serving Christ. A wife is to submit to her husband, but first and foremost, she's serving Christ and submitting to Him. Eph. 5:21-22. And you're to wholeheartedly serve Christ, wholeheartedly work for Him.

Phil. 3:12 says that Paul "*was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.*" Paul knew that Christ had chosen him, had picked him, had laid hold of him to do the work He wanted him to do.

- Eph. 2:10 - "*We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...*"

You are to see yourself as working for Christ, as doing the good works He wants you to do. This is encouraging, for God has already planned out your life, has already determined all the work He wants you to do. And you need to know what this work is, and then do it.

Sixth, it means you are obeying Christ, you are not just doing your own thing, you are doing what He wants you to do. John 14:21, 24; Luke 8:19-21, 11:27-28

- And this goes along with working for Christ, for if you're working for Christ, then you're obeying Him, then you're doing what He wants you to do.

- And as you're walking with Christ, you're talking to Christ, and He's talking to you, and you're learning what He wants you to do. And the fact that you're walking with Christ means He's helping you to obey Him.

- And if you're obeying Christ, you're doing God's work, you're fulfilling His purpose.

Seventh, it means you have the power of Christ. Eph. 1:19 talks about "*the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.*" 2 Cor. 12:9 says, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.*" God lets us be weak, lets us have trials, so we turn to Him, so we learn to live, not by our inadequate power, but by His power.

- Ep. 6:10 says, "*Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.*" God commands you to be strong in Him so you can be and do all that He wants. Phil. 3:10, 4:13

And so you can never say you don't have enough power to live the Christian life, that you can't do what God wants you to do. If Christ wants you to do some good work, He gives you all the power you need to do it. Eph. 3:20-21

Eighth, your life is not about you, but about Christ. Col. 3:3 says, “*Your life is hidden with Christ in God.*” Life isn’t about you being seen, but about Christ’s life being seen in you and through you. Ps. 23:3 - “*He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.*” It’s not about your name, your fame or popularity, but about Christ and His name, His glory. Lk. 6:24-26 - Phil. 1:21-24. Again, we see that life is about Christ. But what else do these vss. say? That Christ’s main purpose is people, and this should be your purpose too. It’d be better for you if you died and went to heaven, but its best for others that you stay and live for them.

Ninth, your hope is in Christ. 1 Thess. 5:9-10. When we think about our future, and the hope God gives us, we must understand that our primary hope is the person of Jesus Christ. Yes, you’ll be in heaven, and you’ll have a new glorified body, and you’ll be with other believers, but most importantly you’ll be with Jesus Christ. You’ll see Christ, talk to Christ, worship and love Christ, serve and obey Christ, have fellowship with Christ, and know His love for you like never before. You need to think about this, and be excited about this, and look forward to being with Jesus Christ.

Tenth, you need to get alone with Christ. You know the vss. in Luke 10 about Mary sitting at Jesus’ feet and having this special and alone time with Him. And you need this too, this alone time with Christ, where you get to know Him, where you read His Word, and hear what He has to say to you, and where you can pray to Him. Ps. 63:1-5

Finally, what are some keys to knowing Christ and growing in your relationship with Him?

1. You need to desire to know Christ, to be like Paul when he said, “*I want to know Christ.*”
2. You need to get rid of idols, to be living a holy life.
3. You need to read the Word when you are alone with Jesus.
4. You need to worship Jesus, to tell Him that you love Him.
5. You need to pray to Jesus, to ask Him for help, for grace.
6. You need to be consistent, to faithfully and regularly be getting time with Him. Ps. 42:1-2 - Col. 2:9-10 - “*... in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete...*”