

Romans 4:23–25, 5:6–11, 6:19–22

Our Relationship With God

As human beings we often feel more comfortable when we can describe our relationships with others. We might use words like, “seeing each other,” “hanging out,” “just friends,” “serious,” or even “dating,” “engaged,” or “happily married.” These perspectives originate in our own eyes and mind. Often we are not comfortable talking to that other person about his or her perspective on our relationship.

This becomes especially problematic in spiritual relationships. What is my spiritual relationship with you? Can I describe how we relate one to the other in a spiritual sense? Who am I to even attempt to describe my relationship with God? Therein lies the problem. God maintains full responsibility for defining His relationship to us as well as our relationship with Him. We may find it challenging to accept His perspective on where we stand or to fully understand how that relationship works.

As a Follower of Jesus I must learn to see my relationship from God’s perspective.

A. God’s Relationship with His People (OT)

1. The Beginning Point: God’s Holiness

A. Exodus 3:1–6

2. Our Created Purpose: Living a Life of Purity

A. Exodus 19:3–6

3. The Problem: The Consequences of Living a Polluted Life

A. We See Our Deficiencies (Genesis 3:6–7)

1. We Seek to Compensate

B. We Seek to Hide From Others (Genesis 3:8)

B. God’s Relationship with His People (NT)

A. God’s Solution for the Problem: Justification (Romans 4:23–25)

1. What is Justification?

A. Just or Righteous (adj), Justice or Righteousness (noun), Justify or Make Righteous (verb), Justification or ?? (Resulting verb)

2. Justification Results from Faith like Abraham

A. Trusting the One who Raised Jesus from the Dead (4:24)

B. Re-finding our Purpose: Reconciliation (Romans 5:6–11)

1. What is Reconciliation?

- A. Being in a honest and open relationship AGAIN.
- 2. God's activity to repair the broken relationship**
 - A. "We have been reconciled" (5.10)
 - B. "We have received the reconciliation" (5.10)
- C. The Endpoint: Sanctification (Romans 6:19–23)**
 - 1. What is Sanctification?**
 - A. The process of God bringing us closer to His holiness (Lev 20:8)
 - 1. "I am the LORD who sanctifies them/him/you" 8x in Lev 20-22
 - 2. Repeated in Ezek 20:12, 37:28
 - 3. Romans 15:16 - Sanctified by the Holy Spirit
 - 2. How are we Sanctified?**
 - A. John 17:17
 - B. Learning to Live as God's People according to God's Instructions

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Secondary Passage

Justification, Reconciliation, and Sanctification are not ultimately about me.

J, R, & S are God's means for his people to live a life in a state of purity.

Only then can they serve as a priestly people in order to reach the nations.

As long as individuals call themselves Christians, i.e. "Little Christs" and do not grow in sanctification through the Word, the Nations will not be brought to God.