

The Glory of Relationship

Text: Phil 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

INTRODUCTION:

Paul speaks as a man hungry for relationship. Notice how this verse breaks down:

- 1) The Desire!
 - That I may know him! (What does this involve?)
 - a) If you get to know Him then,
 - b) You will know the power of His resurrection!
 - c) You will also inherit the price of a relationship! (The fellowship of his sufferings!
- 2) The Results!
 - Being made conformable unto his death!
 - Look at the Amplified Bible...

[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him

[that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly],

and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers],

and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope]

- What are the words that lead to this powerful statement? (V.1-10)

- **What are the keys to a strong relationship with Christ?**

1. Don't get bit! (V. 1 & 2)

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. (for your safety)

² *Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!*

- **3 levels of relationship killers!**

a) Watch out for the dogs! (Then Enemies of Grace)

1. The Legalist work hard at promoting a works gospel!
2. They major on the minors and minor on the majors!
3. This is message of Spiritual Superiority than lifts up some and pushes away others. (Eph 2:8 & 9)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

- The Amplified:

For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God;

⁹*Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.]*

- b) Watch out for the evil workers!
 - The Preachers of Division:
 1. These are those who attempt to divide the army of God!
 2. They do this through deceit and lies!
 3. Satan uses their ways to hinder the believer in his walk with God!
 - Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

¹⁷ *A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,*

¹⁸ *A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil,*

¹⁹ *A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.*

- c) Watch out for the mutilation!
 - Those who attempt to replace the Blood of Jesus:
 1. These deceivers actually expected their converts to shed their blood in order to receive the blood of Jesus!
 2. They push the work of their own hands above the finished work of the Cross!
 3. They mutilate the Gospel and make a mockery of Calvary!

2. Never lose sight of who you are! (V.3-7)

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

- a) Worship God in the Spirit! (John 4:24)
- b) Rejoice in Christ Jesus!
- c) Have no confidence in the flesh!

3. Keep your eyes upon Jesus! (V.4-9)

though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

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.*

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, 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;*

- Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

²² *Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’*

²³ *And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*