

The Lordship of Jesus

Preface

I asked The Lord Jesus what He wanted to emphasise in this document. He said:

He is Lord

He must be obeyed

His commandments are not suggestions which have ways of avoiding them:

His Law of Love Jn 13:34-35:

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

The proclamation of The Gospel:

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He also said that the signs of The Kingdom of God which evidence the Gospel as well as the reality of He and His Kingdom would be manifested in those that believed in Him Mark 16:17-18:

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover

These signs are the only physical manifestations that we have that Jesus and The Kingdom are real and without them the Christian life is all words.

If you know these things and do not do them then you are in continual disobedience and are in danger of Going to hell.

He explained this principle in Rev 3:5

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Those that obey Jesus and do His work which will result in them defeating (overcoming) Satan will go to heaven.

There are a few reasons which Jesus accepts for not doing His work. If you are:

Resting from the battle

Learning or teaching how to Battle

Have an illness or incapacity which hinders you in the battle (mental or physical)

You are not able to understand that you need to Battle

You have not been told there is a battle by those who teach you spiritual things.

If you love Jesus and believe in who He is then these commands should be fulfilled as a natural out flowing of your life and a result of the intimate, personal, relationship you have with Jesus and The Father. If they are evident in your life then perhaps you need deliverance or training so they can be expressed naturally in all you do.

If you are willing to fight this battle The Holy Spirit will guide you in how to fight it and will show you how, when and where you are to do them. There is really little excuse for not doing the work of Jesus when He asks you too as He will never ask you to do more than He has prepared you to be able to do.

Obey The Holy Spirit and you will satisfy God's requirements of you in these and all other areas. He will only ask you to obey Jesus in what you know and are able to do and will teach you the things of God and guide you in them so that you are able to do more in the battle.

One day you will face Jesus and He will ask you what you did with your life and other things He trusted you with, of which The Gospel, and the manifestation of The Kingdom (spiritual warfare), are two of these things.

Your answer will depend on how you obeyed Him and on this will be determined your eternal fate.

You have been warned so you are without excuse.

Our relationship to Jesus as God,

Creator

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Jesus is God and took part in creation in His capacity as God, This means:

He created you

He owns you

He gets to say what happens to you when you die

He is in control of everything

He is to be obeyed

His Character is stamped on creation as it is an expression of His creative energies.

He is the focus of all in creation in one way or another.

He is the Lawgiver

You must obey Him

Not to obey Him is dangerous to your eternal fate.

He is the judge of all who ever live (demon or person)

All must face Him and give an account of:

What they did on earth with what He trusted to them as stewards,

Their life on earth,

Stewardship of the possessions they were trusted with,

How they served Him,

How they related to God and others and

How they were stewards of their mind, soul, spirit and flesh.

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Lawgiver

Jn 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

He has really given as only one commandment, to do all things with the same Quality of Love He shows toward us when He deals with us. This is especially important in the way we relate to God and others. All other commandments flow, in some way, from this expression of God's Love.

If we Love Jesus we will desire to love and relate to Him and others as He relates to us and we will go out and preach The Gospel which is telling others what Jesus has done for us and can do for them.

It is hypocritical also to say you love as Jesus does but do not tell others how He has helped you and that they can enter into the salvation relationship that you have with Him.

Bible scholars say there are four types of Love. Jesus only said there was one type of Love, the quality of Lover He has. What is different though is the way this love is expressed. You can have sex with your wife but not with your sister but each are to be loved equally.

Judge

Rom 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

He is the only one who has power of eternal life or death over you, so you need to be certain you are doing what He wants you to do or you risk eternal spiritual death. This means you need to know:

How to obtain eternal life

How to do what He requires of you to preserve the eternal life He has given you.

How He requires you to express it

The characteristics of this eternal life (His quality of Love) so you know how to express it.

These are all found in The Bible which is why you need to study and memorise it. The Holy Spirit will teach you what you need to know if you really desire to know it.

Relationship to Him as Lord of all

Saviour

Jn 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee (The Father) the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

2 Pet 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

You need to be in a personal relationship with The Father and Jesus. You need to relate to God the Father as your spiritual father and Jesus as Lord of your heart AND as only when He is Lord of your heart (so that you try to obey Him in all things) can He be your saviour.

When you appreciate what The Father and Jesus have done for you, then you will have the intimate and personal relationship with them both which is what salvation is (Jn 17:3).

You will not go to hell because you tried and failed to maintain this relationship. You will go to hell because you did not try at all or gave up and walked away from this close relationship for no valid reason.

Redeemer

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Jesus removed all that prevented you from relating to The Father, this means you have to do nothing to satisfy God's requirements except to believe in who Jesus is (God), obey Him, accept what He had done for you at Calvary - removed the punishment we should have incurred for our sins and every barrier blocking you from a close, intimate relationship with each member of The Trinity.

Relationship to Him as King of heaven and earth

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Phil 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

We are citizens of The Kingdom of heaven

Our Ruler whom out of Love for us provides for all our needs

Mat 6:33 But seek ye first The Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

He supplies all we need (Mat 6:33) if we seek to know Him more intimately and seek the furtherance of His Kingdom (do His Will).

In fact, God requires us to do this:

Jn 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Obedience and service to God should be done out of love for Jesus, our spiritual step brother and not for a reward (which God promises you anyway) and not because you are forced to obey like the demons are forced to obey Jesus.

The two relationships

Joh 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

You are an adopted child of The Father so are spiritual step brother or step sister to Jesus. Obedience to Jesus as Lord is not because of fear of punishment but because He is your spiritual step brother you love so that you want to help Him with His task on earth.

Your Christian life then becomes an expression of this love relationship with Jesus and The Father guided by The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is given to you to guide you in this so you need to be able to clearly hear Him and communicate with Him and because He is your guide in your tasks you need to do this.

You need to spend time talking to The Holy Spirit when you are uncertain what to do as He is there to guide you in these things.

Obedience to Jesus is out of love for a family member and not fear of punishment and in this Love the Christian life should be expressed

The Ministry of Jesus at the Moment

He intercedes for us With The Father now and in eternity

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Jesus is ruler of all so does not need to ask the permission of the Father for anything we need (Matt 6:33), so this intercession has to do with redemption.

The intercession is not so much by Jesus continually asking or reminding the Father of what He has done for us so that we are accepted by The Father. It is by virtue of His being there to show the Father that it is a finished work so that there is nothing needed to make us more acceptable to God except our loving obedience to Him!

He Maintains heaven for our benefit

Jn 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Col 1:17 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Jesus maintains all things including the mansions, rewards and pleasures prepared for us in heaven. Nothing exists outside of God!

He will prepare us for heaven as well as for ministry on this earth:

Phil 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

It is through our obedience that He molds us to His image and prepares us for heaven.

The Commands of Jesus

Jesus gave the following commands to His disciples. If they do not apply to us it leads to the ridiculous scenario that we do not have to tell people about Jesus and all that He did was limited to his own generation. It also means we are at the mercy of demons and cannot be used by God to heal or show His power! This makes Christianity a very dull religion indeed.

The things that follow are what Christians should be doing. It was commanded of all His followers, not just the Apostles. The verses are as follows:

“Mat 28:19-20 (AV) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {teach?: or, make disciples, or, Christians of all nations} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15-18 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Luke 22.19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. (Note this meal was to be remembered not a ritual based on a cup of wine and some bread)

Luke 24:46-47 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Jn15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. {power?: or, the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you}”

A summary of what His follower should do is as follows:

They will teach all Nations

They will preach repentance and remission of sins in Jesus Name

They will witness to Jesus in all the world

They will baptise people in the Name of the Trinity

Teach people them what Jesus requires of them

They will show the signs promised by Jesus to those whom had His delegated authority too (all His followers so there is no excuse as Jesus did not stop them being expressed):

They shall cast out demons

They shall speak in new tongues

They shall capture serpents and scorpions (demons)

They will drink poisons and these will not hurt them

They shall heal the sick

They will love others as Jesus loves them

They will fellowship together and remember Jesus when they eat together.

They will minister and be empowered by the The Holy Spirit

These are the marks that should be a part of the Christian life. Any Christian not wholeheartedly trying to do them when Jesus asks Him too is not following Jesus and what He commanded. Jesus looks at our heart attitude and not our results so that all He asks is for you to wholeheartedly try to do these things and let the failures be dealt with by Him. He knows when you will fail so has prepared for them.

You only really learn by doing things so Jesus lets you do them even though He knows you will fail so that you learn from your mistakes as well as your successes.

Any fellowship, church or denomination not doing or teaching these things is not doing what Jesus commanded.

Work of Jesus

Jesus died on a cross. That was the sacrifice of Jesus and not His work

His work was described as doing good and preaching the gospel of The Kingdom (Mat 4:23). His doing good consisted of:

Teaching The Kingdom of God

Demonstrating The Kingdom of God

Raising the dead

Healing the sick

Casting out demons

Explaining God's requirements of The Kingdom to us

Illustrating God's intimate Love for all and especially to us because we are adopted children of The Father

Are you trying to let Jesus do this through you? Are you really following Jesus?

Ministry cost Jesus everything!

What are you willing to give up to do the work of Jesus.

Jesus came to:

1 Jn 3:8 destroy the works of the devil

1 Jn 3:17 save all who would believe in Him

Tell of our relationship to Father

Jn 17:6 declare the Father's Name (Authority)

Jn 17:14 teach us the Father's Words (teachings and requirements)

Jn 17:26 show us the Father's Love.

To Show us His personal Love

Jesus did these things by word and example.

It is recorded in the Gospels that Jesus went around doing good works and preaching the Gospel of The Kingdom, of which the deciding to follow Jesus, accepting what He did for us on the cross and desiring a relationship with Him (Jn17:3), is only the entry point to The Kingdom.

Jesus also taught the benefits of being a child of Father (i.e., a citizen of The Kingdom of Heaven) as well as the responsibilities of the Citizen of Fathers Kingdom.

Why is Jesus attractive

What makes Jesus attractive to people?

The freedom He offers from:

Judgment and Hell

Purposelessness

Worry

Fear

Loneliness

The hope He gives us

His personal protection – limits what Satan can do to us

A place in Heaven

A relationship with God

A positive outlook for life and eternity

The deliverance and healing He gives us

Emotionally

Spiritually

Physically

Mentally

If ministers do not give these offers of Jesus to the church or the unchurched, what reason is there for their following Jesus? If you are not doing the work of Jesus, what are you doing?

Preaching should not condemn. (Jesus did not come to condemn Jn 3:17) but should give solutions, warnings of God's requirements, correction, freedom (truth that sets free) and hope - just as Paul did in his letters.

However it must use The Bible to correct and warn of punishment if they do not change.

After all, only God can condemn and He chooses not to (Jn 3:17) but uses our own words and actions to judge us and rewards us according to how we valued His instructions and the things He gave us to be stewards of (Gal 6:7-8, Mat 12:36).*****

What did Jesus preach?

He told us to preach repentance and remission of sins:

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

That we needed to turn from the world lifestyle to that of His and that God had removed all that hindered us from doing this and we would end up in hell if we did not do this.

He taught reconciliation with The Father through what He did at Calvary and that everything really began with the restoration of the relationships between yourself and God.

He taught citizenship of The Kingdom of God was a result of this restoration and that with it came privileges, benefits and requirements of which eternal life and rewards in heaven are two of these benefits.

He taught freedom from the kingdom of the enemy through this restoration.

He taught the wholeness, both physical and spiritual that occurred through this restoration and also the healing that resulted from it, of which the ministry of deliverance is an important part.

He taught the relationship with Him and The Father was worth more than any other relationships we have, any possessions we have, any ideals or purposes we have, and desires we have. It is worth much more than these.

He taught us to look to the next life where our rewards really are and not to this life where the rewards are transient and which can only satisfy for a short time.

He taught us to follow the purposes of The Father and then, as a Citizen of The Kingdom, He would provide our needs but not our greeds.

He taught us that His Quality of Love was more important than anything else because God is Love - a self-giving servant and if we reflect His nature, we will also be like that.

He taught us that God Loves us as we are and desires to change us for our best and not just for His purposes.

He taught us to live this life by His example even to the death on The Cross and by this death brought into existence and confirmed everything He had preached and taught us about.

He taught us to seek first The Kingdom of God and His righteousness - to seek first the correctness of the relationship, the Love of God and the meeting of God's requirement and He would provide all we need. It is to be a relationship of Love and service out of Love for Him and Ther Father and not of fearful obedience.

He taught us that God is Love and that we should never doubt this and that we should build our lives and our service on this relationship of Love. Obedience was to be out of Love and not compulsion. Obedience is out of Love for God, by our choice, by desire, by faith and not by fear of hellfire or fear

of damnation or fear of judgment because judgment was removed at the cross, condemnation was removed at the cross, shame and guilt were removed at the cross and if we are in a correct relationship with Jesus and The Father there is no fear of hellfire.

Accordingly, we should fear these things no more and only fear the weakness of our flesh and the weakness of our lack of resolves in case we end up lukewarm, like the Laodicean church which He will spew out of His mouth if they do not repent (Rev Ch. 3).

He taught that by trusting in the Love of God, we would be secure in the relationship with Him, The Father and The Holy Spirit knowing full well that anything done for Jesus will never be wasted but have eternal consequences and as it is done in His Quality of Love, will only deepen the relationship we have with God and we will see God relate to us, meeting our needs in wonderful ways.

The work of The Father was the most important thing to Jesus

Luke 2:41-50 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Jesus was twelve and so a man as far as Jewry were concerned and was theoretically independent of His parents and could do what He wanted too. He stayed behind to do what to Him was more important than anything else: The teaching of The Kingdom of God. This is the first recorded thing He did as a man and shows how important it was to Him and so should also be to us.

We too need to realise The Kingdom of God and its purposes are more important than anything else.

If we Love The Father and Jesus we will be doing their Will and representing their Kingdom otherwise that Kingdom will not be relevant to us because we do not Love Jesus and The Father as we should

If you are not doing their Will perhaps you need to check if you are really love Them or need deliverance because a love relationship with The Father and Jesus are necessary to salvation.

Relationship to him as a person (stepbrother or stepsister)

Jesus calls us His friend (one who does not ignore or oppose Him) if we obey His Will.

Step brother or sister: *Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

Friend: *Jn. 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

Jesus calls us His family (Brethren)

Mat 12:48-50 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

If we are for His purposes, He calls us brethren (part of His family) because we work with Him intimately (more than just a friend would be) to help Him (be used by Him) to do His will, just as a loving family member would and do the work of The Family leader, The Father..

Unless we realize our relationships to Jesus, we cannot relate to Him as we should.

Rewards in The Kingdom

Those who follow God must believe He rewards those who obediently serve Him (Heb. 11: 6). Jesus is our King and He is the one who determines our rewards. The rewards we receive are appropriate to our service for Him (Gal 6:7-8).

Jesus determines your rewards you are to receive for your service to Him. He may use people to do this but if He is not the source behind these then rewards and recognition are empty and are a result of man's reason and not of God rewarding you and so have no eternal significance.

Because these are of man and not of God Satan will use them to cause problems to all involved in this recognition.

So when rewarded check the source of it and if it is God then thank Him you are worthy to be used by Him in such a way as to receive these rewards or recognition. If they not from God then do not accept them as it is a snare of Satan to affect you adversely in your Christian life.

Just because a reward, certification or promotion comes from church does not necessarily mean it is from God.

God is love and all He does is a result of His Love

Before creation He had planned a life that was the best you could have (Eph 2:10)

He did not need to bring you into existence as He is complete in Himself. You are here primarily for your benefit. He derives pleasure in your obedience also and in the fellowship He has with you so these need to be cultivated in your life if you would please God and grow closer to Him.

All He has done is a result of His Grace towards us. Grace is the expression of His love towards us, even though we have done nothing to deserve it!

Remember, God made you to be His friend and all that God does for you is a result of this desire of His.

Examples of His Love are:

Jesus coming to earth to teach us what God required of us

Calvary

Redemption

Salvation

Heaven

A personal relationship with each member of The Trinity

His complete provision of all we need: emotionally, spiritually, mentally, physically and in ways we do not know or realize now or may even not realise in eternity and beyond

All these are a result of His Gracious Love expressed to each one of us personally.

Jesus only gave us one command (Jn13:34-35). All He did or commanded of us flows from this which can be summarized as:

To love all in the way God loves you!

If we do not have this love nature in us, we will not minister in The Kingdom of God as we should and will not fit into heaven as we should.

Without Love as the basis of all we do anything we do becomes fruitless for the purposes of The Kingdom of God.

We will only have faith in God and His promises to the extent we trust His Love

You would be like Jesus? Then love as He Loves!

A Kingdom Perspective

When a person understands the relationship they have with Jesus and others as citizens of His Kingdom then their perspective changes.

You realise that you cannot do anything without affecting another person in The Kingdom in some way, even if only indirectly. You realise that you are part of a whole and not of a section of The Kingdom. Paul uses the analogy of the body to show this relationship.

Any group that places itself between The King and you divide The Kingdom even if they declare they are serving The King. Denominations do this unfortunately and hide The Kingdom by being themselves a sort of kingdom.

You realise also that it may be necessary to sacrifice individuals in the battle for the good of the whole. In other words, the good of The Kingdom may require individuals to face trial and suffering and be martyred, but you also realise how The King rewards these that suffer and/or are so sacrificed.

A citizen who realises these things will gladly sacrifice themselves out of love for their king and the betterment of their fellow man and will face danger and rejection for the purposes of The Kingdom and the betterment of the others in The Kingdom.

Intimacy with God

Whom you love will be your focus. If you Love Jesus above all else He will be your focus and all you do will be related back to His Will for You. You will seek to know Him more intimately and strive to do His Will in all things.

If He or His Will is not your focus then you have an idol that needs to be removed before intimacy can be resumed and the character of Jesus developed more in you. A person who wants to think and act Like Jesus (show His Character and attitudes) will focus on Jesus above all else in all that they do.

Intimacy is turning your heart towards Jesus and asking Him to fill it with Himself so that you become one with Him in heart and purpose.

“Intimacy with God” is a term used frequently by Christians. What does it mean and is ‘intimacy’ defined in The Bible?

The Bible does not define intimacy, but gives examples of it. Therefore, we cannot look to the Bible for a definition of this term.

Requirements for Intimacy

A relationship - if no relationship exists, intimacy cannot develop

Trust - you do not expose yourself to someone whom you do not trust

Respect - you must respect the person or you will not take them seriously

Love - there is no deceit or deception in the way you relate to them

A desire to have this relationship is important as you do not pursue what you do not desire.

Clear communication is necessary - this is reciprocal or mutual in the relationship, not just one-sided communication. Reciprocal communication eliminates misunderstandings, which Satan could possibly use to cause strife, rejection and subsequent division

What is Intimacy

Intimacy, as used in The Bible, is a relationship with a close, personal, friend you trust for the purposes of sharing, helping and encouraging each other in things that are private and very personal to you which you do not want most others to know about. In a sense it is a form of deep fellowship and Christ and His purposes are central to the relationship. The deepest intimacy is between you and God followed by that between spouses in a marriage which is why marriage is used to illustrate the relationship between God and you.

In a sense, marriage is the physical representation of the spiritual relationship we have with Jesus. This is one reason why it is so important and which is why Satan seeks to destroy it. A marriage with the correct relationship between spouses can do much damage to the kingdom of Satan.

An intimate relationship is based on love, trust, and mutual respect and is characterized by transparency and exposure of your innermost thoughts and feelings, regardless of the form in which this communication occurs.

Because the highest type of intimate relationship is based on the principles in God's love, the relationship is not easily damaged, and if any damage occurs, the repair to the relationship is usually done quickly as it is worth doing what is necessary to remove any problems in the relationship. This is the type of relationship a husband and wife should have as well as we should have with The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit.

The only reason for not keeping an intimate relationship is when it will compromise your belief system and remove your self-worth in some way, or if the relationship will require you to do something against the Law of God or against God's Will.

In an intimate relationship the other person will never force you to do anything against your will.

In an intimate relationship the other person knows your deepest thoughts and help you to endure in your darkest hour, as well as share in the joys you have after these dark periods are over.

Intimacy with God has to do with the degree of our relationship with Him rather than with being in a unique type of relationship. It is the quality of the relationship that makes it special, not its characteristics, as these are common to all relationships in various degrees according to the type of relationship.

Intimacy with God is to do with our relationship to God As a friend and not as Lord and Master (as that is an authoritative relationship where we do what He commands). It is more to do with the time we spend in fellowship with Him and not the actual serving of Him. It is the relating to Him as a step brother or step sister and not as Lord and Master.

All relationships, from a Christian's perspective, should have God's Love in them as Christians are to demonstrate His Love in all they do. The difference in the quality of the love found in individual relationships is due to the varying degrees of trust and respect in that relationship (intimacy). As a relationship becomes less intimate, the degree of trust and respect (intimacy) grows less in intensity. The level

of intimacy depends on these factors and, as the relationship grows, you can release more and more of yourself to the other person.

In reality, Christians should live such a life so that they are not afraid for people to know anything about them, because they have nothing to hide. The intimate friend, though, will know your innermost thoughts and problems. It is because this intimate friendship you are able to turn to these special friends to confide in them, be encouraged by them, and even advised by them. The intimate friend may be a counsellor, but these friends are mainly there to encourage you, listen to you unburden yourself and help you in times of adversity and weakness.

How do you develop a relationship?

You spend time with each other, learning about each other and helping (serving) each other, building trust and respect for each other. So, we need to spend time with God in fellowship to develop intimacy. The more time we spend in fellowship with God, dialoguing with Him, the more we develop the intimacy between He and us. The more we know what is on His heart and the more we see and understand His Love for us the more we will desire to be with Him and do what He desires us to do.

To study the character of God we need to study its expression in The Bible as this is the only place it has been given to us to study. This is one of the major reasons for studying The Bible as it helps us to know Jesus and The Father more intimately.

The most intimate friend we have is The Holy Spirit who presence is in you and knows everything about you from a first-hand perspective and who has been sent to walk with you through life and guide you into what Jesus desires you to be. He lives in you and knows your every thought and prays for you when you do not know how or what to pray (Rom 8:26-27) which is why all things work for your best, even when you do not know what to do (Rom 8:28).

In conclusion, we can say that intimacy with God is a relationship that is special and unique because of the degree of trust and respect that is in it. It is an expression of our faith in and love for God and, like all relationships, it requires daily effort to maintain. Our relationship with God is special and distinctive because of the quality of it, not because it is unusual or different in characteristics from other types of relationships. It is further, a relationship that results in eternity with Him in Heaven.

If you love and appreciate someone, you will spend time with them, and it is your love for Him that should encourage your desire for a deeper relationship with God and the spending of the time with Him that is necessary to deepen the relationship.

Marriage is the most intimate earthly arrangement you can enter into.

How do we express our Love to God?

We love God because He first Loved us. In other words, we love God because of what He has done for us. Jesus said our love for Him would be shown by our keeping His commandments because we loved Him and desired to keep them, not because we are afraid of Him and hellfire!

So how are we to love God?

We show we love God by desiring to be with Him and serving Him out of love and gratitude for what He has done for us and not out of desire for reward or fear of hell fire!

Through the tenderness in the way we relate to The Father and Jesus and in the way we serve the people they send us to serve on their behalf because God's Quality of love is in us and as we serve them on the behalf of Jesus and The Father we desire to express their Quality of Love to them.

By seeking the best for the King and His Things of The Kingdom because of our love for The King and The Father and desiring what is best for them and The Kingdom.

Trusting the King for all that happens to us as His citizens (in other words trusting His Love towards us).

Listening to His Guide The Holy Spirit who is given us to guide us to live as we should as a citizen of The Kingdom of God.

Humility because of what God has done for us and the fact He desires to relate to us.

In moderation in all we do as citizens so we do not abuse what The Father and Jesus have given us to do or to care for.

By the way we express love, gratitude, and thankfulness to God in all we do for The Father and Jesus.

By the way we represent God to others we show the degree of our love for Him.

The way of the person who expresses Love to God

A person who loves a God will wait for His timing to do things and will trust God with what God is doing even though He cannot see anything happening

They will serve God in any way they can and be gentle with His things

They serve God and not man's will and willingly help others do the work of God even if they do not get any recognition from it as their joy is in serving God and not in man's recognition of their service

They are sensitive to the feelings of others and will not hurt people to promote themselves as it reflects adversely on God

They do not do anything that will bring discredit to God Glory, Name, Holiness, Character and other of His things

They do not promote themselves in worldly things if it will adversely affect God's Name and Holiness

They are patient in doing what God gives them regardless of what others say or do to or about them

They do not get angry with God and always trust Him for what He is doing thinking only good about Him because they realise His love for them.

They joy in good as it is an expression of God whom they love

They look for God in others and not negative things and help people draw closer to God

They seek the good of people as it draws people closer to God whom they love and will do what is necessary for people to become more intimate with God

Their love for and appreciation of God and what He has done for them sustains their desire to serve and represent Him in a correct way

This attitude towards God is the same attitude we should have towards our spouse.

What is The Christian Life?

The Christian life is the expression of the love relationship we have with Jesus and The Father as citizens of The Kingdom of God guided by The Holy Spirit. If your relationship is not right with God you will

need deliverance or greater understanding and/or appreciation of God to take it to where it should be so that you can live as God desires you to live.

Remember, the relationship with Jesus and The Father is the most important relationship you will ever have as how you relate to them in this will determine your eternal fate and will be reflected in the way you relate to your spouse.