

## **Bible Study #5 – Relating to People**

Because of your new relationship with God, you will have a whole new relationship with people. Being a Christian is not something that you do once a week, or when no one is watching but it affects your total life. The Lord is very concerned about your involvement with people. Let's look in the Scriptures to see how God views us.

1. **1 Peter 2:9-11** – “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul” **What are some names that the Lord now calls us? (Verse 9).** “...a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. His own special people...”  
**Have we always been His people? (Verse 10).** “...who once were not a people but are now the people of God...” So the answer is no.  
**How are we described in this present world? (Verse 11).** “...as sojourners and pilgrims...”  
**What are we to proclaim? (Verse 9).** “...proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

We see, then, that there are two aspects to our dealings with people. First, there are the other members of God's family that we interact with. We will call this aspect “Fellowship”. Second, there are the unbelievers to whom we proclaim God's message. We will call this aspect “Witnessing”.

### **\*\*\* Fellowship \*\*\***

The word fellowship means sharing something with another person in a deep way. We share in the life of God.

2. **Besides having fellowship with one another, who else do we have fellowship with? (1 John 1:3).** “...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ”.
3. **In the Bible, this fellowship that believers have with each other and with God is described in various ways. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, this relationship is called a body.** “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jew or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all be made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I

am not of the body”, is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body”, is it therefore not of the body?” If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you”. No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, but our representable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

**Whose body is it, (who is in charge)? (Verses 12, 27)** Christ. “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.” “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

**Are all the members the same? (Verses 14, 17)** No. “For in fact the body is not one member but many.” “If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?”

**Who puts us in our place in the body? (Verse 18)** “But now God has set the members each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”

**Are you needed in the body? (Verses 21-26)** Yes. “And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you”. No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, but our representable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

**Do you need the other members of the body? (Verses 21-26)** Yes. “And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you”. No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, but our representable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same

care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

4. **What are some activities that the early believers shared? (Acts 2:42).** “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
5. **Name some actions that should accompany the Word. (Colosians 3:16).** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing on another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
6. **What should we not neglect? (Hebrews 10:25).** “...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
7. **How can we show that we are Christ’s disciples? (John 13:35).** “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
8. **First John 3:18 says we should not just talk love. How should we love? “My little children, let us not love in word or tongue, but in deed and in truth.”**
9. **Who should we especially do good to? (Galatians 6:10).** “Therefore, as we have opportunity. Let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

### **\*\*\* Witnessing \*\*\***

The truth is on trial today, and God wants us to take the stand and give our testimony on behalf of Jesus. We should back this up with our lives. Then we will win people over to Christ.

10. **What should we be always ready to do? (1 Peter 3:15).** “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”
11. **What will Jesus do if we follow Him? (Matthew 4:19).** “Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”.”
12. **What good example did Andrew give that we should follow? (John 1:40-42).** “One of the two who heard John speak, and follow Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).”
13. **What will result from being a proper witness? (Matthew 5:16).** “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
14. **How will Christ respond if we deny Him? (Mark 8:38).** “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

**15. James 5:20 states a goal that we should keep in mind as we are a witness. Put it in your own words.** “let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”